FRIDAY
May 16, 2025

BENGALURU
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karnataka information

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SC ON KANCHA GACHIBOWLI

'Restore forest or risk jail for State officials'

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'Getting close' to deal with Iran, says Trump

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'OUT OF FOCUS'

The paradox of approach to the Manipur crisis

A problematic stance on a national security issue

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CAPTAIN RETURNS

Rajat Patidar joins RCB training session

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BBMP races to fix potholes before monsoon

BENGALURU
The BBMP is now racing against time to fill potholes and complete ongoing road works, as the monsoon is fast approaching. » PAGE 2

Metro's Yellow Line to partially open in June

BENGALURU
As commuters eagerly anticipate the launch of Namma Metro's Yellow Line, the BMRCL officials have said that the line will begin operations partially in June.
» PAGE 4

SC names used as cuss words may be changed

BENGALURU
The commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, is also exploring the possibility of recommending change in names of certain communities that are used as cuss words. » PAGE 10

METROPLUS » PAGE 9

Put Pak. nuclear arsenal under IAEA watch: India

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh cites concerns over 'irresponsible' conduct of Pakistan, questions security of that country's nuclear weapons; in J&K, he underscores India's resolve to fight terrorism

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

On his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir following the launch of Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday questioned the security of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal and called for its supervision by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), citing concerns over what he described as "irresponsible" conduct by the neighbouring country.

Addressing soldiers at the Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar, Mr. Singh said, "We will never yield to nuclear blackmail. Pakistan's reckless nuclear threats have not deterred India's resolve to eliminate terrorism. I ask the global community: are nuclear weapons safe in the hands of such an irresponsible and rogue nation? These weapons must come under IAEA supervision."

The Minister reaffirmed India's evolving stance on national security and counter-terrorism, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi with redefining the country's policy framework. "Any attack on Indian soil is no longer viewed as an isolated act of violence – it is treated as an act of war," he said.

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» PAGE 16
RELATED REPORTS ON
» PAGES 17 & 18

High morale: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh meets troops at Badami Bagh Cantonment in Srinagar on Thursday. PTI

Pakistan calls for probe into Indian nuclear 'black market'

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD

Responding to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's remarks on its arsenal, Pakistan on Thursday called for an investigation into a nuclear "black market" in India. "The IAEA should be worried about the repeated illicit trafficking incidents involving radioactive material in India," Pakistan's Foreign Ministry claimed in a statement, adding that the incidents "suggest the existence of a black market inside India".

T.N. CM slams Presidential Reference to top court on timeline to act on State Bills

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/CHENNAI

Strongly condemning a Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court under Article 143 of the Constitution on the timeline imposed for Governors and the President to act on Bills, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Thursday said it was a desperate attempt to weaken democratically elected State governments by placing them under the control of Governors serving as agents of the Centre.

President Droupadi Murmu, in a rare move, had sought the opinion of the Supreme Court through a Presidential Reference on Tuesday, on whether the court can "impose" timelines and prescribe the manner of conduct of Governors and the President while dealing with State Bills sent to them for assent or reserved for consideration. Broadly, the Reference asked if judicial orders can dictate by what time and how the President and Governors should function under Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution.

Mr. Stalin dubbed the move as "an attempt to subvert the constitutional position" settled by the top court in the Tamil Nadu case against the Governor and other precedents.

CONTINUED ON
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Question of clarity

President Droupadi Murmu has sought clarity from the Supreme Court on the 'scope and contours' of Article 142

Presidential Reference: Article 143 of the Constitution empowers the President to seek advice from the Supreme Court on questions of law or fact, present or future, of public importance

The President has raised 14 questions, which include:

- Can SC impose timelines and dictate the manner of exercise of powers by Governors and the President under Article 200, 201, respectively?
- Can deemed consent to Bills be given through a judicial order?
- What are constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is sent for his assent. Is he bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers?

3 terrorists killed in Pulwama, say police

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Three terrorists were killed in a joint operation of the security forces in south Kashmir's Pulwama on Thursday, the police said.

"Security forces received information regarding movement of terrorists in that area (Nader, Tral, Awantipora). A cordon was laid. It led to an encounter between the forces and holed-up terrorists," V.K. Birdi, Inspector-General of Police, Kashmir, said.

According to the Army, the slain terrorists have been identified as Asif Ahmed Sheikh, Amir Nazir Wani, and Yawar Ahmed Bhat. Three AK-series rifles, 12 magazines, and various other war-like stores have been recovered, the Army said.

GBG Act comes into effect

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

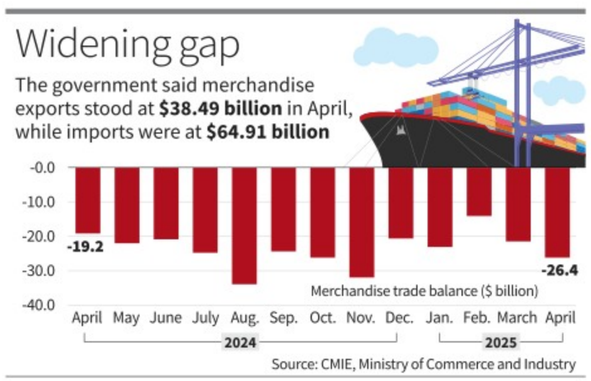
As the Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, came into effect on Thursday, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that there will be at least three corporations in Bengaluru. The Act provides for one to seven municipal corporations, each with up to 150 wards. However, till the new corporations are notified, the current BBMP will continue to work as it is. All functionaries will continue to have the same powers and will discharge duties as per the BBMP Act, 2020.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 7

Trade deficit in April grows to $8.65 billion

Widening gap

The government said merchandise exports stood at **$38.49 billion** in April, while imports were at **$64.91 billion**



Source: CMIE, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's total trade deficit, counting both merchandise and services, widened to $8.65 billion in April, compared with $5.77 billion in April last year, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry released on Thursday.

While briefing the media, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal also mentioned that India's total exports, including merchandise and services, stood at $824.9 billion in 2024-25, the highest-ever, up 6% from 2023-24.

Merchandise woes

Merchandise exports grew 9% to $38.49 billion in April 2025, while the imports of goods grew at a significantly faster 19.1% to $64.91 billion, as compared to the same month of last year. The merchandise trade deficit, therefore, widened to $26.4 billion in April this year, as compared to $19.19 billion last year. Exports of tobacco (66.43%), coffee (47.85%), electronic goods (39.51%), mica, coal other ores and minerals (34.43%), fruits and vegetables (30.72%), and marine products (17.81%) marked a growth in April 2025.

The services sector, however, witnessed the opposite trend, with exports widening their lead over imports. Services exports for April, an estimation because the final data from the Reserve Bank of India arrives with a month's lag, grew 17% in April 2025 to $35.31 billion. Services imports, on the other hand, grew just 4.6% to $17.54 billion in April, taking the services trade surplus to $17.77 billion.

RELIEF IN SERVICES
» PAGE 19

Player to watch

Virat Kohli walking back to the dressing room after a practice session at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Thursday. RCB will take on KKR in an IPL match on Saturday. This will be the first IPL match in the garden city after the tournament was paused for a while owing to the India-Pakistan tensions. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

No hike in fee for medical courses this year in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has decided to not increase the fees of undergraduate medical courses for the academic year 2025-26. Incidentally, it recently allowed a 7.5% fee hike for engineering and architecture courses.

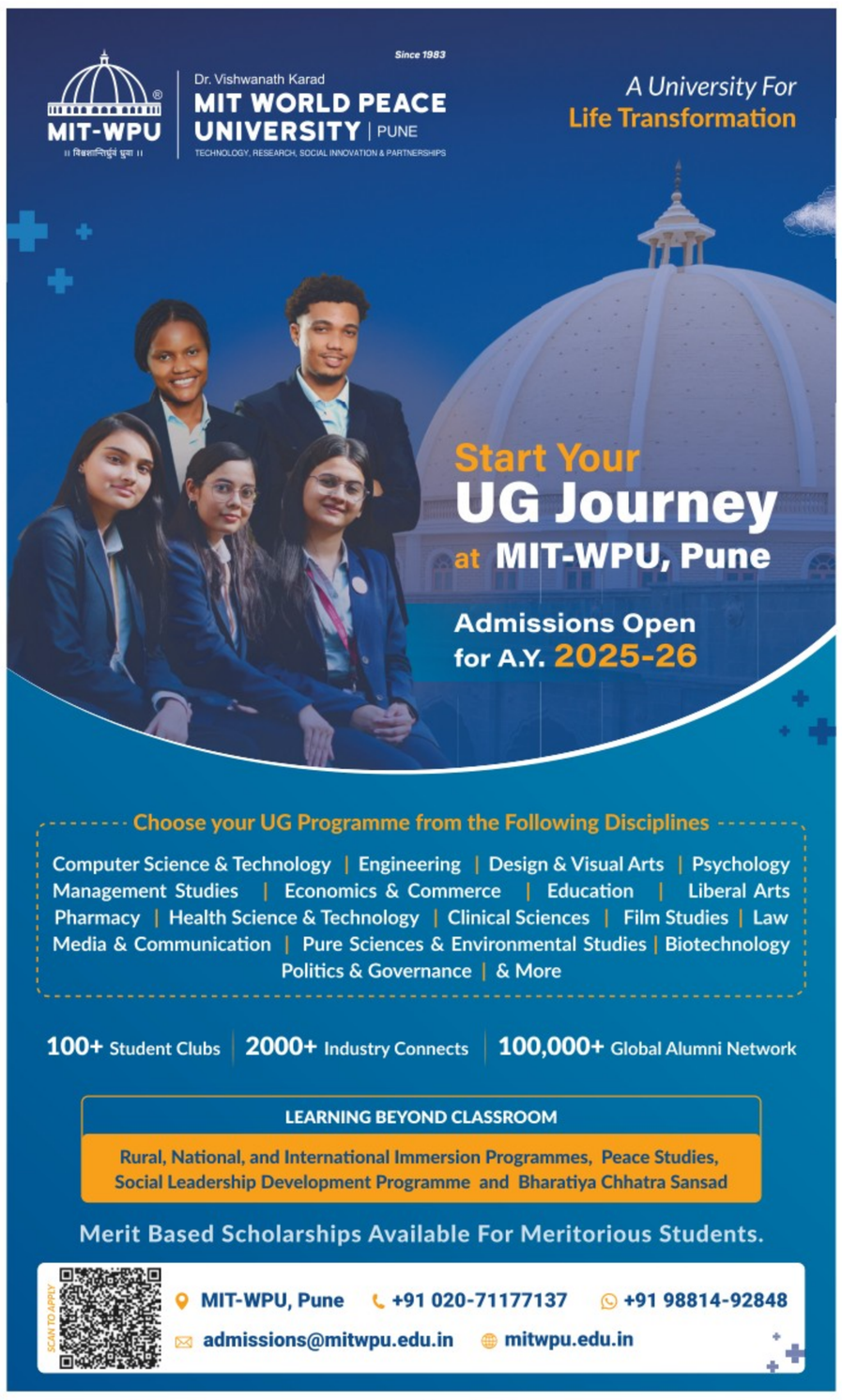
The decision to not hike the fee was taken at a meeting held with Sharan Prakash Patil, Minister for Medical Education and private medical and dental college managements, on Thursday. Private medical and dental college managements had demanded a 10% to 15% fee hike for medical courses. The government had allowed a 10% hike in fee of medical courses last year.

According to sources, private dental college managements repeatedly requested the Minister for a fee hike.

However, the demand for dental courses has been falling every year. The sources said that the Minister told them that if the fees for these courses had to be increased, the demand for dental courses would fall further.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Patil said, "There was a 10% hike last year, and this year we said there will be no increase and the medical and dental college management representative agreed to it. The consensual agreement will be signed soon."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 7



Shrivalli, the star of India's memorable BJK Cup journey

The 23-year-old, known for her dynamism and versatile strokeplay, displayed composure and maturity to help the country seal a World Group playoff berth

Kamesh Srinivasan

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty made heads turn with persistent wins, five in five singles matches, in India's progress to the World Group play-off in the Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis championship in Pune recently.

Playing in the team competition at home for the first time, the 23-year-old Shrivalli had a hand in five of the nine matches that India won in this campaign. The side's two singles triumphs came courtesy of Vaidehi Chaudhari who stepped in for first-choice Sahaja Yamalapalli, who had to retire in the third set of her second singles match against world No. 105 Mananchaya Sawangkaew of Thailand.

India's campaign was delicately placed before its last tie against Korea. Captain Vishal Uppal played his cards well, bringing back Sahaja in place of Vaidehi. This meant Shrivalli was back to take on the No. 2 side after winning two of her games against the Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei's top-ranked players Hong Yi Cody Wong and Joanna Garland, respectively.

The fixture that followed - between Shrivalli and Korea's Sohyun Park - was a three-hour blockbuster which ended up being a great endorsement for the health of Asian women's tennis. The 23-year-old Indian ground out an incredible 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(5) victory.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Confidence personified

Over the years, Shrivalli has been known for her dynamism as a player who could serve and stroke with authority and belt the ball fiercely but in short spells. The ability to stay focused and get the work done was invariably missing, especially against high-quality opponents.

Thus, it was a revelation that Shrivalli kept hammering the winners, and stayed focused for three hours against the Korean who threw everything at her. This gripping contest was easily among the highlights of the six-team tournament.

Shrivalli was confidence-personified in her come-from-behind victory against the 22-year-old Park, who had grown quite comfortable with the conditions, having won a tournament in India earlier this season.

"I was quite thrilled to have won all my matches and very happy with my contribution in India's qualification for the World Group playoff, only for the second time in history. It is a magical feeling. And I am proud of our performance," Shrivalli told *The Hindu*.

She was quick to credit the squad for a successful team effort.

"Playing for the country on home soil was an unforgettable experience, filled with emotion," she said while fighting tears following her win against New Zealand's Aishi Das in the first tie. Her composure grew after that victory, and Shrivalli climbed into a zone where there was no room for emotion.

"I am thankful to captain Vishal Uppal sir, coach Radhika Tulpule for their belief and guidance, and my teammates Ankita [Raina], Prarthana [Thombare], Sahaja [Yamalapalli], Vaidehi [Chaudhari], and Maaya [Rajeshwaran] for their support," said Shrivlali.

Ankita and Prarthana sealed victory for India in that tie against Korea by winning the decisive doubles against Sohyun Park and Kim Dabin in straight sets.

In the tournament's 2024 iteration in China, the chance to progress in the competition was within India's reach until its campaign came undone in the last rubber against New Zealand, where India, led then by Asian Games mixed doubles gold medallist Rutuja Bhosale and captained by Shalini Thakur Chawla, conceded defeat.

Eventually, three teams were tied in second place with three wins and two losses behind China, which had won everything. Korea had progressed then, by virtue of a better proportion of matches, having won 11 out of 15, as against India's eight wins and New Zealand's seven triumphs.

This time around, Ankita - the top-ranked Indian woman in singles - bought into captain Vishal's plans of keeping his experienced doubles team fresh for their fixtures and happily played her part in the doubles team with Prarthana for the all the five ties against New Zealand, Thailand, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei and Korea.

Ankita and Prarthana won two of the five matches, with the other crucial victory coming against Thailand. Against Hong Kong and Taipei, India was 2-0 up in singles, and thus the doubles matches were not that significant. Lulu Sun and Monique Barry had been strong for New Zealand against the Indian pair, which ultimately helped the Kiwis progress to the playoffs as the first team before India secured its spot

Do or die

"After losing the first tie to New Zealand, every match was a do-or-die situation for us. We all focused on our game plan as discussed in team meetings. All the teammates bonded well and supported each other, working hard to stay focused and motivated throughout the tournament," recalled Shrivalli.

While she credited a six-day preparatory camp for India's gains on the tennis court, what was perhaps even more important was remaining focussed and calm under pressure.

"Meditation helped me to stay calm and focused. Vishal sir's guidance, Radhika, the other team members, and the physios Apurva Kulkarni and Rutuja Kulkarni, were constantly encouraging (us) with their cheering and motivation on court. On top of it, the spectators chanting 'India, India, India' helped me fight harder. It was a very proud moment for all of us to be part of the historic moment for Indian tennis," she exclaimed.

It took Shrivalli a few days to come to terms with the gravity of what this bunch had achieved.

"Qualifying was a magical and emotional moment for all of us. It was huge for Indian tennis. It took more than a day to sink in. I am honoured and thrilled to be a part of this team, making history for the second time," she said.

"The camp helped the team to bond well and train hard. Both the captain and coach made us work hard to gain that competitive edge, refine our skills, and prepare for the demands of the big tournament. A huge shout out to the team physios, Apurva and Rutuja, for keeping us match fit throughout the two weeks."

The next step

Will this experience see Shrivalli climb to a different level in the professional circuit in the forthcoming tournaments?

"Why not? I have realised that discipline, dedication, and consistency are crucial. I need to focus on the overall development of the game, mental strength, and physical conditioning. Need to develop strategies for different surfaces and opponents, and learn from setbacks and mistakes," said Shrivalli.

Interestingly, Vishal has been guiding Shrivalli on the professional circuit for quite some time, but she could see a different side, that of an astute tactician, while playing under his leadership for the first time.

"Vishal sir is an excellent and shrewd captain. He understands the game. More importantly, he knows how to get the best out of his players. He bonded with the team and impressed upon us the value of drawing inspiration rather than pressure when playing for our country. His positive talks during meetings and advice, to fight for all those girls including ourselves who need the support, brought the best out of the team," said Shrivalli.

But one can only take the horse to water. Shrivalli's success lay in her ability to remain in attack mode without getting carried away or getting bogged down by inevitable errors.

"I believe, *risk hai toh ishq hai* (when there is risk there is love). I love the challenge of balancing solid defensive play with aggressive attacking shots. It is a delicate balance, but when executed well, it can be very effective," she explained.

Shrivalli's fitness and mobility were phenomenal during the BJK Cup, something she has been working on alongside developing mental toughness and a strategic thought process.

"My revised approach is to improve specific skills and work on consistency. I want to reach the top 200 in the rankings. I will work out a plan with my team to develop a strategy to achieve these goals," she said.

While her BJK exploits should be a shot in the arm for a youngster aiming for the stars, the realities of her results in the professional circuit demand more blood, sweat, and tears should she hope to progress. Shrivalli has won only five singles matches in eight tournaments this year, with six of those events happening on home soil.

With plenty of frontiers to conquer, the world is Shrivalli's oyster, and she is just getting started.

THE GIST

- Shrivalli registered five wins in five singles matches, playing a key role in India's progress to the World Group play-off in the Billie Jean King Cup women's tennis championship
- Over the years, she was known for her dynamism as a player who could serve and stroke with authority, belting the ball fiercely but in short spells
- Her five wins in BJK Cup: bt Aishi Das (NZ) 6-1, 6-1; bt Lanlana Tararudee (Tha) 6-2, 6-4; bt Hong Yi Cody Wong (HK) 7-6(6), 2-6, 6-3; bt Joanna Garland (Tpe) 6-2, 7-6(3); bt Sohyun Park (Kor) 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(5)
- The 23-year-old's success lay in her ability to remain in attack mode without getting carried away or getting bogged down by inevitable errors
- Her promising BJK Cup campaign aside, there's plenty of work left to be done in the singles arena, with Shrivalli having won only five singles matches in eight tournaments this year, with six of those events happening on home soil

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BBMP races against time to fix potholes in city before the onset of monsoon

The civic body has so far identified 812 of them and filled over 260, say officials

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The recent spell of pre-monsoon showers have left the city's streets dotted with potholes again. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is now racing against time to fill potholes and complete ongoing road works, as the monsoon is fast approaching, expected to hit the State early in the first week of June.

BBMP Administrator Tushar Giri Nath and Chief Civic Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao have directed the Zonal Commissioners to ensure completion of the exercise ahead of monsoon. "The white-topping works are also headed for completion and those that miss the deadline in completing white-topping in stipulated time will be fined. The BBMP has already fined two contractors," a senior official said. However, there are many ongoing road digging works taken up by Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Ltd across the city as well, which are unlikely to be completed in the stipulated time.

A pothole at Chickpete in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The BBMP has so far identified over 812 potholes and filled over 260 of them. A senior BBMP official told *The Hindu* that everyday new potholes are identified by the civic body and citizens are also complaining on the dedicated application.

Kiran Kumar, Change Makers of Kanakapura Road said that the BBMP seems to be focusing only on major roads to fill potholes. "On Kanakapura Road, the BBMP has filled many potholes but sub-arterial roads continue to suffer with large potholes. Inside the situation is worse," he said. A senior civic official conceded that filling potholes on arterial roads was a priority due to the volume of traffic on these corridors, he claimed work on filling potholes on not just sub-arterial roads, but even ward roads, was under way.

Ashwith U., who lives in Mahadevapura zone said the roads in the vicinity were still in a bad condition. "What is worse is the lack of coordination among civic agencies. The BWSSB digs roads repaired by the BBMP, but no one is being held accountable for the same. BBMP, Bescom, and BWSSB's top brass hold coordination meetings. But it doesn't seem to translate on the ground," he lamented.

Indira S., a resident of Jayanagar, said the BBMP had filled potholes in her area and some parts of the South zone. "But persuading the officials after registering the complaint still remains a challenge. It takes at least one week of repeated calls to local officials for them to send a team to fill potholes. Unless this changes the commuters have to continue to endure the problems," she said.

BBMP Commissioner directs strict action against unauthorised OFCs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao directed officials to remove unauthorised optical fibre cables (OFC). During an inspection of a 2.5 km stretch of road from Guttahalli flyover to Cantonment Railway Station, Mr. Rao observed OFC hanging loosely over pedestrian pathways and instructed immediate removal.

He said that despite providing ducts to lay cables underground in Tender-Sure and white-topped roads, certain service providers have laid cables along roadsides, footpaths, electric poles, and even on trees, causing inconvenience to the public.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao has directed that the cables be immediately cleared. FILE PHOTO

He directed officials that strict action should be taken against any unauthorised OFC laid where ducts are already available.

BBMP-owned lands

Mr. Rao also directed officials to use BBMP-owned vacant plots for public use. He said that BBMP is currently identifying designated zones for street vendors and directed that suitable BBMP-owned land be earmarked for this purpose.

Cleanliness

Mr. Rao also directed officials to ensure cleanliness around transformers and said fencing should be installed around transformers. He also directed officials to remove wall posters that were unauthorised.

He also visited Indira Canteen on Miller's Road, where he had breakfast.

Civic body to bear cost of certificates got via Seva Sindhu for pourakarmika candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday announced that it will cover the expenses incurred in obtaining necessary certificates through the Seva Sindhu portal for pourakarmika (civic workers) candidates selected under the Direct Payment System (DPS) in the Solid Waste Management (SWM) department.

As per the roster and reservation rules, the final selection list of 12,692 pourakarmika candidates was published on November 16, 2024.

BBMP in a release said that to verify the authenticity of the selected candidates, reports will be procured from the respective Deputy Commissioners. Candidates have already submitted applications through the Seva Sindhu portal.

Candidates are required to upload supporting documents such as Certificate-1, Certificate-2, and other relevant records on the portal. The BBMP Commissioner has decided that the civic body will bear the cost involved in preparing these mandatory certificates. Special Commissioner of the Administration Department and Member Secretary of the Pourakarmika Selection Committee, Avinash Menon Rajendran, has appealed to the selected candidates not to fall prey to any illegal demands or middlemen and to ensure the uploading of documents is carried out in a transparent and timely manner.

APS College hosts national seminar on folk epics

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Kannada, APS College, Bengaluru, on Tuesday, hosted a national seminar on 'Traditional values in Folk Epics'.

The event focused on the importance of preserving native culture through the conservation of folk epics.

Ramesh, Registrar of Bengaluru City University, said the role of youth and educational institutions in safeguarding indigenous traditions and folk literature.

He stated that folk epics are important narratives that reflect centuries of cultural legacy and must be preserved with urgency.

Former Vice Chancellor of Hampi University, H.C. Boralingaiah, highlighted the qualities of folk epics within the context of tradition.

He stressed that today's youth must be introduced to the values and heritage of folk performance.

Samvaad institute to distribute free hearing aids

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To mark its 20th anniversary, the Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing will distribute 348 free hearing aids to underprivileged individuals on Thursday.

The event is being organised in association with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), Bengaluru.

The distribution programme is scheduled to take place at 11 a.m. at the Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, 1st Cross, 5th Main, Anandagiri Extension, Hebbal, Bengaluru.

बि0क0च0आ0–प्र0–02/लेखा–1834/आ0
बिहार कर्मचारी चयन आयोग,
पो0–वेटनरी कॉलेज, पटना–14
आवश्यक सूचना
PR NO.-0934 (GAD) 2025-26
ज्ञापांक:–1798/आ0

आयोग द्वारा NIT No.-01, दिनांक–09.04.2025 के माध्यम Is Software Solution for Creation and Integration of Recruitment Website for Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC) हेतु प्रकाशित निविदा में, LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID एवं TECHNICAL BID OPENING के लिए निर्धारित तिथियों को निम्नरूपेण विस्तारित किया जाता है

SL.NO.	DISCRIPTION	OLD DATE & TIME	MODIFIED DATE
01	LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID	16.05.2025 TILL 03:00 PM	06.06.2025 TILL 03:00 PM
02	TECHNICAL BID OPENING	19.05.2025 AT 11:30 AM	10.06.2025 AT 11:30 AM

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी। NIT No.-01, दिनांक–09.04.2025 के माध्यम से प्रकाशित निविदा को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।
विस्तृत जानकारी **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** से प्राप्त की जा सकती है।

सचिव
बिहार कर्मचारी चयन आयोग, पटना
PR. No. 003587 (GAD) 25-26
नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of E-Tender Notice No. B-TRD-29-2025-26-01 Dt. : 09.05.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Description of Work	Approx.Value
Hiring of staffs for Manning of TSS, data entry operators, CAD operators, Scheduling and data management operator for Energy management cell for a duration of two years in the sections of Bengaluru (Incl-JT) (Excl), Baiyyappanahalli (Incl) Omalur (Excl) Chikka Banavara (Incl)- Sampige Road (Incl), Bangarapet (Excl)-Yelahanka (Excl) Sections for 24 Months	Rs. 2,84,83,527/-

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 12.00 hrs on 30.05.2025
For details log on : **www.gem.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/ Traction Distribution Bengaluru
PUB/114/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MANGALURU DIVISION MANGALURU
Ref : PWD:MD:TND(07E) JE-2/2025-26 Dated: 15.05.2025
SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Divn. Mangaluru Inviting Tender under K.P.P Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from eligible Tenderers in accordance with KTTP Act for indent No: 20217 under the Head of Account: 4059-80-054-0-29-386 Department Buildings and Indent No: 21754 under the Head of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 Major District Road Improvements the last date for reciept of tender: **22.05.2025 upto 16.00 hours.**
In the above work lowest cost of estimate is Rs.175.00 Lakhs & highest cost of estimate is Rs.185.00 Lakhs. Inviting tender as per standard tender document KW-4. Any change in dates of events and value of amount put to tender and EMD amount etc can been seen from KPP-portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/184/25-26 dt.15.05.2025
Sd/- Executive Engineer

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby stated that **Sri. M. G.Venkatesh** is the owner of a property No. 256, Ground Floor, E Katha No.1001411628 situated at **17th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore 560055.** While renovation original sale deed dated 28-03-1994, registered on 02-08-1994, Document No. 3800/1993-94, has been misplace/lost. Despite searching for it the could not locate it. If anyone finds it, kindly contact +91 9845009944 within **15 days** from the date of issuance of this ad.
Ranjith Gotur, Advocate,
No. 461, B/w 6th Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Bangalore – 560 003.
+91 8197215170
email : ranjith.gotur@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Publication of Tender Notice No: E-GSU-ELE-2025-26-OT-2 dated 09.05.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tender for the following work.

Name of work	Approx.Value
Electrical Arrangement for Upgradation/Modernisation of Goods Shed at Penukonda Junction.	₹ 73,48,636.57

Last date for Submission of bids :
Upto 11.00 hrs on 31.05.2025
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer, Gati Shakti Unit, Bengaluru
PUB/113/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2025-26
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

बिहार सरकार
बिहार कर्मचारी चयन आयोग,
पो0–वेटनरी कॉलेज, पटना–14
बि0क0च0आ0–प्र0–02/लेखा–63/24 1799/आ0
आवश्यक सूचना PR NO.-0935 (GAD) 2025-26

आयोग द्वारा NIT No.-02, दिनांक–09.04.2025 के माध्यम से Installation of Touchless IRIS Capturing and Facial Recognition Device for Examination Conducted by Bihar Staff Selection Commission (BSSC) हेतु प्रकाशित निविदा में LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID एवं TECHNICAL BID OPENING के लिए निर्धारित तिथियों को निम्नरूपेण विस्तारित किया जाता है

SL.NO.	DISCRIPTION	OLD DATE & TIME	MODIFIED DATE
01	LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID	15.05.2025 TILL 03:00 PM	05.06.2025 TILL 03:00 PM
02	TECHNICAL BID OPENING	16.05.2025 AT 11:30 AM	09.06.2025 AT 11:30 AM

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत् रहेंगी। NIT No.-02, दिनांक–09.04.2025 के माध्यम से प्रकाशित निविदा को इस हद तक संशोधित समझा जाय।
विस्तृत जानकारी **state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar** पर भी देखी जा सकती है।
PR- 03629 (G A D) 2024-25
नशे की मार, बर्बाद करे सुखी परिवार।
सचिव
बिहार कर्मचारी चयन आयोग, पटना।

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society Skill Development,
Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
#4, 2ND FLOOR, MYSUGAR Building, J.C Road, Near Town Hall, Bengaluru-560002
Email:nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com Telephone No.080-29540333

Expression of Interest (EoI)

Subject: Inviting Proposals under Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) project in the State of Karnataka

Sanjeevini - Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS), under the Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka is implementing Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). Sanjeevini KSRLPS invites proposals from the Agencies who are registered under Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and are having valid Permanent Registration Number (PRN) for the implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameena Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) project for the target of 3395 candidates in the State of Karnataka.

The agencies having expertise and willingness to impart high quality training and provide placement opportunities in the sectors like IT-ITes, Fashion Technology, BFSI, Food Processing, Domestic Worker, Healthcare, Automotive, Aerospace and Aviation, Green Jobs, Management and Entrepreneurship & Professional, Telecom, People with Disability, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Media & Entertainment, Retail, Tourism and Hospitality (but not limited to) are encouraged to submit their proposals. For detailed information you may visit the portal **https://ksrlps.karnataka.gov.in.**

The Agencies should submit the proposal online through the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) designated portal **https//kaushal.rural.gov.in** adhering to the procedures and guidelines of DDU-GKY 2.0 published by Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) along with the **non-refundable Application fee of Rs. 25,000/-** (Twenty-Five Thousand Rupees only) **plus applicable GST.** After clearing/passed the initial screening, the applicant agencies shall be intimated to deposit Rs. 1,25,000/- (One Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Rupees only) plus applicable GST for Quality Appraisal (QA). The Application fee for initial screening of proposal should be paid through **NEFT/RTGS** in favor of **Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS)** payable at Bengaluru, with the following Bank detail:

Account Name: Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) Account Number: 0431101206814, **Bank Name:** Canara Bank, **IFSC Code:** CNRB0000431, **Bank Address:** 19/7, Maruthi Mansion, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru — 560052.

The last date for submitting the proposal will be on or before 06.06.2025. For more information and program guidelines you may visit the MoRD portal kaushal.rural.gov.in. The State Project Approval Committee (PAC) will be the final decision-making authority.

For any queries, please contact C B Patil, SPM, PIA - C&D, 7406062947, and Narendra K C, SPM, Finance, 9980755516 ddugkysrlmkarnataka@gmail.com, nrlmkamataka@gmail.com

Sd/-
Mission Director
National Livelihood Mission
Karnataka
DIPR/CP/696/AKAR/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that, Our client intends to purchase the Schedule Property from Ramachandrachari, S/o Late Chikkamuniyachari, Aged about 55 years, R/at No.10/11 Attur Main Road, Anand Nagar, Atuur Post, Yelahanka, Bengaluru – 560 064, who is the land Owners.
Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims/ objections with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on our client and our client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of Property bearing Residential Vacant Site No.2, Out of property No.42/2A1, BBMP Katha No.42/2A1/2, Present BBMP Katha No.690/42/2A1/2, Property E-PID No.2901423939 Situated at Attur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, present YelahankaTaluk earlier Bangalore north Taluk, Bangalore presently comes under BBMP Limit Ward No.3, measuring East to West 80 feet, North to South 45 Feet, totally 3600 Sq.ft, and bounded on: **East By :** Road, **West By :** House belongs to Venugopal, **North By:** Site No.1, **South By:** Property belongs to Pillamuniswamappa.
N.M.THYAGARAJ, Advocate
No.102, Ground Floor, 3rd, Main, 10th Cross, Near Reva College Collage, Lakshmaiah Block, Ganganagar, Bangalore-560 003.
Mob: 9900452222, Date: 15-05-2025

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking
सिंडिकेट Syndicate
BENGALURU

E-AUCTION NOTICE
SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES THROUGH E-AUCTION (ONLINE AUCTION)
UNDER RULES 8(6) & (9) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES 2002

Notice is hereby given to the effect that the immovable properties described herein, taken possession under the provisions of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, will be sold by inviting tenders on the following terms & conditions. E auction arranged by the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (BAANKNET)** through the website **https://baanknet.com/**

Sl. No.	1)Name of the Borrower / Guarantor(s) 2)Name of the Branch and Secured Creditor	1) Secured Debt outstanding 2) Reserve Price 3) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Amount	1) Last date of deposit of EMD 2) Last date of KYC documents 3) EMD A/c no. 4) Bid Factor	1. Date of Auction 2. Time of Auction 3. Date & Time of Inspection
1	1) Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) : 1. Mr Rudraswamy E S/o Mr.Erappa No.24/25,2nd Floor, Kanakadasa layout, Lingarajapuram, Bangalore-560089. **Also at : Mr Rudraswamy E S/o Mr.Erappa** Flat No.B12/306,3rd Floor, 12th Block,Alur layout, Bangalore -560018. 2) Canara Bank - Vasanthnagar Branch Ph. No. 9760881151	1) Rs. 4,94,619.26 plus further interest & charges 2) Mentioned each property below.	1) 17.06.2025 upto 6.00 pm 2) 17.06.2025 upto 5.00 pm 3) EMD Payment to E-Wallet or through Challan generated in M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (BAANKNET) portal. 4) Rs. 50,000/-	1. 18.06.2025 2. 11.00 am to 2.00 pm 3. 16.06.2025 10.00 am to 2.00 pm

Description of the immovable/ movable assets: SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of property bearing No.128, in Block No.9,10,11 and 12, Sy No.113, situated at Alur Village formed by Bangalore Development Authority, measuring East to West 44 Meters and North to South 60 Meters, totally measuring 2,640 Square Meters and Property is bounded on the: **East by :** Road, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Road and **South by:** BDA Vacant Land.
SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY : 33.526 Square Meters of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule "A" Property.
SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY : All that piece and parcel of the 1 BHK Residential Apartment bearing Flat No.B12-306,on the 3rd Floor, in the 12th Block, having Super Built Up Area measuring 33.526 Square Meters, constructed on the Schedule 'A' Property, and bounded : **On the East by:** ALR-H. No. B12/307, **On the West by:** Open Space, **On the North by:** Open Space and **On the South by:** ALR-H. No. B12/305.
A) RESERVE PRICE - Rs.11,26,000.00 B) EMD - Rs. 1,12,000.00

For all details contact at Regional Office, MG Road, Bangalore. Contact Numbers - 1) 70107 03787, 2) 70134 01298
For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please logon to our website **www.canarabank.com** under "E-Auction" or contact the branch.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 15.05.2025
Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE
This notice is issued on behalf of our clients **Mrs. K.R.ANITHA SUNIL GANGADHARAN, W/o Late Sunil Gangadharan** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original Sale deed dated 23.03.2002, document bearing No.5191/2001-02, Book 1, CD No.SVGR CD No.24, registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagara, Bangalore in respect of the Schedule Property is lost/ misplaced.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned documents, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that **Apartment No.305** in **Third floor** having a super built-up area of **1204 sq. ft.,** coupled with a **car parking space** No.305, together with all appurtenances appertaining thereto in the project **"VICTORIA II"** constructed on property bearing Municipal No.314/8, **Patel Rama Reddy Road, Domlur Layout, Division No. 72, Bangalore 560071** with **2.51% equivalent to 523 sq. ft.,** undivided right, title and interest in land and bounded on:
East by : Property belonging to K.R.Krishna Reddy, West by : Remaining portion of Sy. No.74/2, North by : Road, South by : Remaining portion of Sy.No. 74/2
Shivakumar, Advocate
M/s. Rashi Legal
No.B2-1250/51, Manu Teja Towers, A Dasarahalli Magadi Main Road, Bangalore (North) -560079
M-9538178060

India's cough syrup crackdown — what prompted it and what follows

Paediatricians across the country welcome the move to restrict use of a common cold drug combination for children under the age of four, while pharmacists flag confusion over whether prescriptions can be honoured and what should be done with existing stock

Zubeda Hamid

Last month, the Central government restricted the use of a common cold drug combination for children under the age of four, and also asked manufacturers to include a warning on the label, in package insert or the promotional literature of these drugs.

This fixed drug combination (FDC), present in several popular brands of cough syrups for children, consists of chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine hydrochloride. While chlorpheniramine is an antihistamine, used to relieve allergy-like conditions such as a runny nose, watery eyes and sneezing, phenylephrine is a decongestant that works by narrowing small blood vessels, providing temporary relief from inflammation.

In a gazette notification issued on April 15, the Union Ministry of Health stated that this FDC was likely to involve risk to children below four years of age and safer alternatives to this drug are available. The matter was examined by a Subject Expert Committee, following which the restrictions were imposed.

Strict instructions: After restricting the use of a common cold drug combination, the Centre has also directed asked manufacturers to include a warning on the label, in package insert or the promotional literature of these drugs. GETTY IMAGES

Good news for paediatricians

For paediatricians across the country, the ban is a welcome move. Rajath Athreya, lead neonatologist and senior consultant paediatrician at Rainbow Children's Hospital, Sarjapur Road in Bengaluru said the combination of a sedative antihistamine like chlorpheniramine maleate along with phenylephrine was irrational in the first place.

"Phenylephrine, which is a decongestant, can also have effects on heart beat and blood pressure. These effects are unpredictable in young children and hence, there has been concern about the use of the drug in this age group," he said.

T.U. Sukumaran, a specialist in paediatric pulmonology and behavioural medicine from Kerala, pointed out that first-generation antihistamines – drugs that block the action of histamines that can cause a fever, itching, runny nose, and watery eyes – such as chlorphenaramine should not be given to children aged less than four in any case, as they could produce complications in this age category.

Explaining further, Vibhu Kawatra, paediatrician, pulmonologist and allergy specialist based in New Delhi said that the main issue with first generation antihistamines is that of respiratory depression and apnoea. Many over-the-counter syrups and drops however, contain chlorpheniramine due to its antihistamine properties as well as its side effect of drowsiness to calm the child, despite the risk of sudden death that could occur with its use. Over a period of time, he said, a newer generation of antihistamines evolved making chlorpheniramine redundant.

Paediatricians pointed out that second-generation antihistamines such as cetirizine and fexofenadine were safer alternatives.

For pharmacists however, some amount of confusion has prevailed over whether or not prescriptions can be honoured and what can be done with existing stock. This was complicated by petitions moved by several pharma companies in the Delhi High Court praying for the quashing of the gazette notification. The court however ruled on April 24 that the restriction would apply prospectively, and not retrospectively, and also directed the pharma companies to issue notices in national newspapers and issue advisories to doctors, chemists and retailers with regard to the ban. However, no coercive action would be taken with respect to the stock manufactured and/or in circulation on or before April 15, the court stated.

B. Thirunavukkarasu, president, Bangalore District Chemists and Druggists Association, raised serious concerns over the communication of the ban to pharmacies, "While we welcome the government's move to protect children's health, the way this ban has been communicated and managed has caused widespread confusion and risk within the pharmaceutical supply chain," he said. Pointing out that there was a lack of formal communication from manufacturers and wholesalers to retailers, Mr. Thirunavukkarasu said retail chemists, who are expected to comply immediately, have not even received circulars from many companies or the State Drugs Controllers' office. As a result, stocks are still available in pharmacies.

"It is the responsibility of manufacturers to collect the banned stock through their medical representatives or to officially instruct their authorised distributors to retrieve the same. Retailers cannot bear the financial or legal brunt for holding stocks they procured legally before the ban," he added.

A.N. Mohan, president, All Kerala Chemists and Druggists Association, however said that chemists have been allowed to sell their existing stock of this FDC, in line with the Delhi High Court judgement. M. Anandan, general secretary of Tamil Nadu Pharmacists Welfare Association, pointed to a wider problem: inadequate drug inspectors to enforce regulations. In T.N., for instance, where there are 90,000 pharmacies, the State has just 200 drug inspectors, he said. He also noted that many pharmacies were not run by qualified pharmacists which contributed to the problem of proper drug dispensation.

Paediatricians said it is important to know what is causing the cough or cold rather than rushing to medicate the child.

Mohandas Nair, professor, department of paediatrics, Government Medical College Hospital, Kozhikode, explained that the most common type of cough in children is associated with viral upper respiratory tract infections that only last for a few days. In such cases, symptomatic treatment was not essential – the FDC would only add to the cost of treatment apart from its undesirable potential side effects, he said.

Other causes of a cough could be: asthma, gastro-oesophageal reflux, or post-nasal drip – secretion in the back of the throat or nose. For asthma, doctors recommend inhaled salbutamol, while occasionally inhalers or nebulisers are prescribed, while for post-nasal drip, proper positioning while sleeping could help. Across the board, doctors say simple home remedies such as warm water and honey can go a long way.

Colds too, could be caused by viral infections, and in most cases, do not require aggressive treatment, they said. As a senior paediatrician in Chennai noted: "The coughing disturbs the parent more than the child. We have tried to reduce prescribing medicines wherever possible." Dr. Kawatra said that parents must also be responsible: they must refrain from buying cough syrups without prescriptions.

Disseminating information

While the restriction has been welcomed, doctors also point to the need for widely disseminating information about it. Madap Karuna, a paediatrician based in Hyderabad said that professional bodies should use their continuing medical education programme platforms to share updated protocols and it was essential for information to be circulated to all associations of doctors and pharmacists. She also noted that there needed to be stringent protocols in place to ensure no banned medications were available in the market at all.

(With inputs from Afshan Yasmeen in Bengaluru, A.S. Jayanth in Kerala, R. Sujatha in Chennai, Bindu Shajan Perappadan in Delhi and Siddharth Kumar Singh in Hyderabad.)
(health@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

A fixed drug combination (FDC), present in several popular brands of cough syrups for children, consists of chlorpheniramine maleate and phenylephrine hydrochloride. The Union Ministry of Health stated that this FDC was likely to involve risk to children below four years of age and restrictions were imposed

Paediatricians pointed out that second-generation antihistamines such as cetirizine and fexofenadine were safer alternatives. While the restriction has been welcomed, doctors also point to the need for widely disseminating information about it. Pharmacists too raised similar concerns

Paediatricians said it is important to know what is causing the cough or cold rather than rushing to medicate the child. They advice parents to be responsible and refrain from buying cough syrups without prescriptions

HUMERUS

Raising healthy hearts: reimagining school nutrition to tackle childhood hypertension

Anuja Agarwala

It is easy to think of high blood pressure as something that happens later in life. But in India, that assumption is starting to look dangerously outdated. More and more children are being diagnosed with elevated blood pressure, and many of them do not even know it. It is not until adolescence or adulthood that the signs become too loud to ignore.

The numbers tell a worrying story. The Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS) from 2016-18 found that 7.3% of Indian adolescents had hypertensive blood pressure levels. That number climbs to 9.1% in urban areas. Then there is the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5), which shows that 12% of teens aged 15-19 already have elevated blood pressure. These are not isolated cases. This is a trend. And it points to one very clear takeaway: if we want to tackle hypertension, we have to start early. Really early.

There are a few things feeding into this trend – rising childhood obesity, less physical activity, and a lifestyle that has shifted indoors and online. But if we had to name the biggest culprit, it would probably be the food our children are eating.

Structured food education and balanced menus can transform lunch into a launchpad for lifelong health. FILE PHOTO

Walk into any grocery store or school canteen, and the reality hits you. Processed snacks that promise flavour and convenience in seconds. And they are taking a toll. On average, Indian adolescents are consuming more than 8 grams of salt a day. That is almost double the World Health Organization's recommended limit for adults. Most of it comes from packaged snacks, fast foods, and street-side treats that are heavy on salt and low on nutrition.

Over time, children develop a preference for these hyper-palatable foods, while their tolerance for healthier options drops. They create habits, and those habits are forming early.

India's mid-day meal scheme (PM POSHAN) can become a pathway to break these habits early. As of 2025, the scheme now feeds approximately 120 million children across over 1.27 million schools, making it the largest school meal programme globally.

As the programme scales, there's an opportunity to evolve beyond basic nutrition. Can these meals also be a gateway to healthier food habits and greater food literacy? For many children, these meals are not just their main source of nourishment but also their first exposure to structured eating.

What if the next phase of PM POSHAN combined nutritional targets with efforts to cultivate a more joyful, educational relationship with food? Could we introduce regionally-inspired menus, fresh produce, or even involve students in food preparation and learning?

For inspiration, we can look to Japan, where the concept of *ShoKuiku*, food education, is woven into school life. Children help plan meals, learn where their food comes from, and serve lunch to their classmates. They study nutrition and food origins. It is a simple yet powerful approach, which helps children understand how to make better choices. And the results speak for themselves: lower rates of childhood obesity and a healthier relationship with eating. If Japan seems too far removed from India's realities, consider Vietnam. Their Ministry of Education teamed up with Ajinomoto to improve school lunches by adapting the *ShoKuiku* model in 2012.

We need to bring that same ambition into our schools. We can do this by elevating PM POSHAN scheme into a food-literacy engine, and reshaping habits, palates, and minds.

(Dr. Anuja Agarwala is a senior genetic metabolic nutrition consultant and national vice-president, Indian Dietetic Association
anujaaiims@gmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Heavy rain pounds Mysuru, nearby regions

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Heavy rain pounded parts of Mysuru and surrounding regions on Thursday and threw normal life out of gear.

There were multiple incidents of giant trees falling due to a gale that accompanied the rains, sending people scampering for cover. There is a forecast for more rain in the days ahead.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 16				
☀	RISE	05:54	SET	18:38
☾	RISE	21:57	SET	08:30
SATURDAY, MAY. 17				
☀	RISE	05:54	SET	18:38
☾	RISE	22:48	SET	09:26
SUNDAY, MAY. 18				
☀	RISE	05:54	SET	18:39
☾	RISE	23:36	SET	10:21

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	24
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	31	20

Bengaluru Today
32ºC Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm. Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31ºC Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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HC restrains police from taking coercive action against Sonu Nigam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sonu Nigam

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday restrained the city police from taking any coercive step against singer Sonu Nigam if he cooperates, and from submitting final report of investigation on the FIR registered against him on a complaint that he allegedly made an objectionable statement during a music concert at an engineering college when a few individuals in the audience demanded that he sing Kannada songs.

Also, the Court permitted Mr. Nigam to appear through video conference if the police want to record his statement as part of the investigation. However, the singer has to cooperate for the probe, the Court said.

Justice Shivashankar Amarannavar passed the interim order on the petition filed by Mr. Nigam, who had challenged the legality of registration of the FIR by the Avalahalli police on May 3 based on a complaint lodged by Dharma Raj Ananthaiah, a Kannada activist, relying on media reports about the incident.

The FIR was registered for the offences under several sections of the BNS.

Video publicly available

Orally observing that the event, in which the singer had made the alleged statements, is available in public domain as the event was aired live on social media platform, the Court said that if the Investigation Officer wants to record the singer's statement physically, then the IO has has to go to Mr. Nigam's place (Mumbai) at the expenses of the latter.

Earlier, the advocate representing Mr. Nigam pointed out that averments in the complaint has no material to invoke the provisions of the BNS as the event had continued and concluded peacefully after the initial hurdle when a member of audience demanded Kannada songs. It was also pointed out that singer had no intention to create any trouble or breach of peace.

Meanwhile, Additional State Public Prosecutor representing the police told the Court that the police will not take any coercive step against the singer but the singer will have to appear before the IO for recording his statement while pointing out that Mr. Nigam did not respond to the email and the communication sent through the registered post.

Man held for derogatory remarks against PM

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

The Turvihal police have arrested a man for posting derogatory content about Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rafale fighter jet on social media. The accused, identified as 37-year-old Ajmir of Turvihal village in Sindhanur taluk of Raichur district, have been booked him under the relevant sections of BNS, sources said.

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PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR APPOINTMENT OF HVAC CONSULTANT FOR CENTRAL AC PLANT AT SBI LHO PATNA
Premises & Estate Department, on behalf of SBI invites expression of Interest in form of online e-tenders from HVAC Consultant firm having experience in Design Engineering of energy efficient chiller based centralized HVAC plant for replacement of our existing HVAC plant along with cooling tower. The eligible and interested parties may download the prescribed application form from the Bank's website: Bank.sbi->SBI in thenews->Procurementnews->(https://bank.sbi/ web-in-news/procurement-news)"OR SBI e-tender portal https://www. tenderwizard.com/SBIETENDER. The e-tender can be downloaded from 10.05.2025 to 17.06.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. The addendum/ corrigendum, if any will be published in the Bank's website only.
Place : Patna, Date: 16.05.2025 Assistant General Manager (P&E)

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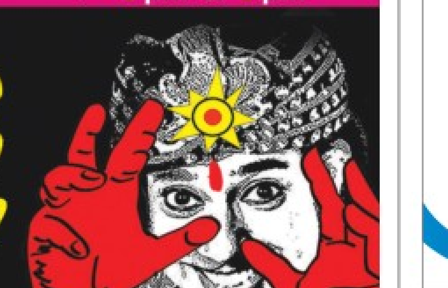
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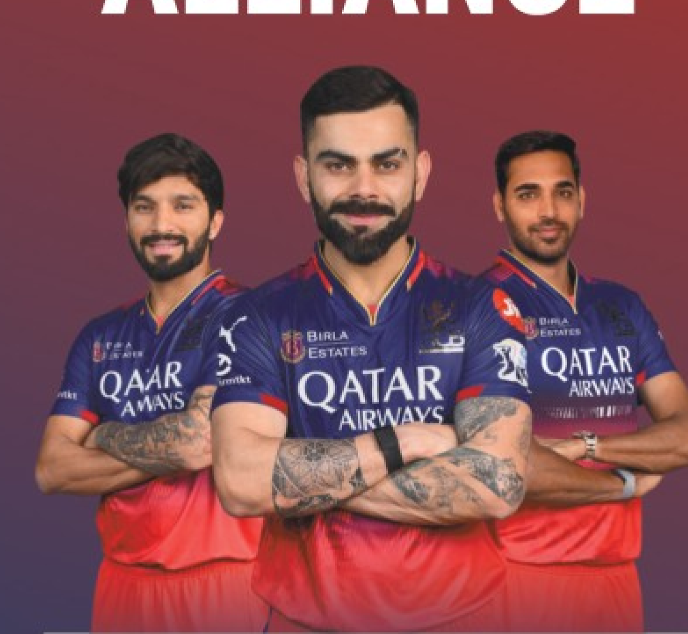

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Amount approved to reconstruct fire-gutted shops at Dilli Haat

49.8 In lakh. The reconstruction work, which includes civil and electrical repairs, is expected to be completed within 45 days, they said. On the night of April 30, a major fire broke out at Dilli Haat — one of the national capital's most popular open-air markets. PTI

Number of startups approved for income tax exemption benefits

187 The income tax benefit scheme is designed to support emerging businesses in their formative years, encouraging innovation, job creation, and wealth generation. Over 3,700 startups have been granted exemptions since the scheme's inception. PTI

The drop in U.S. wholesale prices in the month of April

0.5 in per cent. U.S. wholesale prices dropped in April for the first time in more than a year despite President Trump's sweeping taxes on imports. Economists had expected that producer prices will rise modestly in April. A 0.7% drop in services prices brought the index down. AP

Amount approved by Delhi Cabinet for CM Development Fund

1,400 in ₹ crore. The Delhi Cabinet has approved the setting up of a Chief Minister Development Fund (CMDF) with a ₹1,400-crore corpus for 26FY to boost the city's civic infrastructure and public facilities, officials said on Thursday. PTI

Number of training jets Japan grounded after the crash

200 Japan's Air Self-Defence Force has begun emergency inspections of all of its military training aircraft following a crash on Wednesday. The T-4 aircraft crashed into a reservoir in the Aichi prefecture. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Does Article 21 include right to digital access?

What approach does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016 take? Why do banks and other financial and government institutions mandate collecting KYC details? How does the current digital KYC framework exclude visually impaired individuals and acid attack survivors?

EXPLAINER

Kartikey Singh

The story so far:

On April 30, the Supreme Court (SC) directed revisions to Know-Your-Customer (KYC) digital norms to ensure accessibility for 'persons with disabilities' (PwD), reinterpreting Article 21 of the Constitution to encompass the 'right to digital access'.

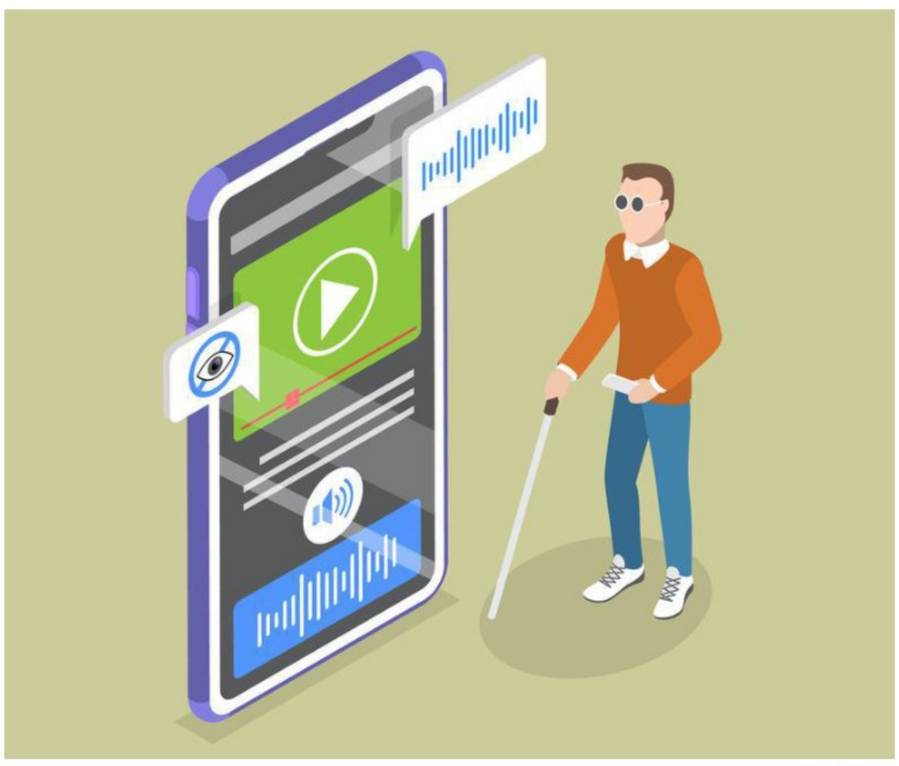
What laws safeguard rights of PwD?

The Constitution, through its Preamble, Fundamental Rights, and Directive Principles, alongside disability statutes, obligates the state to adapt laws, policies, and infrastructure which allow PwDs to exercise their rights on par with others. Advancing these guarantees and giving effect to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), India enacted the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, which adopted a 'social-barrier' approach that defines disability as arising from impairments, along with physical, mental, intellectual, social, and psycho-social obstacles which make full participation in society difficult.

Crucially, Section 42 of the RPwD Act, 2016, mandates 'government measures' to ensure that all audio, print, and electronic media are accessible; that electronic media includes audio description, sign-language interpretation, and captions; and that everyday electronic goods and equipment follow 'universal-design' principles.

Are KYC details mandatory?

To curb illegal finance and money laundering, the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (and its 2005 Rules) mandates every bank and financial institution to verify client identities, maintain comprehensive records, and report relevant information to the Financial Intelligence Unit. Consequently, digital KYC verification has become indispensable for a wide range of essential services – from opening a bank, demat or trading account to accessing SIM cards, pension schemes or insurance policies. It also unlocks government benefits – from national scholarships to Aadhaar-linked 'direct benefit transfers'.



GETTY IMAGES

Building on this mandate, the RBI's 2016 Master Direction on Know Your Customer (KYC) rules prescribe a Customer Due Diligence (CDD) framework and, via Clause 18, introduces Video-based Customer Identification Process (V-CIP), enabling remote customer verification through secure, real-time video interaction. Customers can prove their identity online by clicking a selfie; signing on a paper physically or digitally; printing and rescanning, or clicking a photo of the filled-in form; verifying OTPs in 30 seconds; and reading a random code flashed on the screen.

How does it affect PwDs?

Acid-attack survivors left with permanent 'facial disfigurement' and severe eye burns – and individuals with complete blindness or low vision – have filed writ petitions seeking directions to respondents, including RBI, the Department of Telecommunications and SEBI, to devise alternative digital KYC, e-KYC and video-KYC methods to make remote identity checks inclusive for all PwDs as they face significant hurdles under the current framework.

Currently, each 'regulated entity' has to devise its own tests. Methods such as eye-blinking, reading a flashing code, or writing it down and taking a selfie exclude blind users. Despite clear mandates in the 2021 and 2022 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Accessibility Standards, most KYC apps and websites flout them – there is no screen-reader prompt for camera alignment, no audio cues for lighting or focus, and no way to differentiate document sides during upload. Additionally, thumb impressions, commonly used by visually impaired users, are not accepted as valid signatures, nor are PAN cards issued with them. Aadhaar-based biometric systems worsen the exclusion. Scanners and interfaces lack basic 'accessibility' features such as 'text-to-speech' or 'self-verification'. As a result, blind applicants are frequently asked to appear in person or are rejected on vague technical grounds. The RBI's Master Directions also bar any form of 'prompting' during KYC verification, leaving users without assistance.

How has the SC intervened?

The SC has consistently held that accessibility for PwDs is a 'constitutional imperative'. In *Rajive Raturi versus Union of India* (2024), it ruled that 'accessibility' is central to the right to life, dignity, and freedom of movement under Article 21. During the COVID-19 vaccination drive, the court emphasised that digital registration must be fully accessible to prevent exclusion. In the instant case, the top court held that 'digital barriers' blatantly violate the rights of PwD under the UNCRPD and India's disability laws. Anchoring its judgment in the principle of 'substantive equality', it directed that digital KYC guidelines be revised with 'accessibility' at their core. It flagged that the digital divide affects not just PwDs, but rural users, senior citizens, the economically disadvantaged, and linguistic minorities.

Relying on Articles 14, 15, 21, and 38, the court affirmed that 'digital access' is inseparable from the 'right to life and liberty'. It mandated the state to ensure that all digital infrastructure is accessible, especially for marginalised communities.

Kartikey Singh is a lawyer based in New Delhi.

THE GIST

- To curb illegal finance and money laundering, the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (and its 2005 Rules) mandates every bank and financial institution to verify client identities, maintain comprehensive records, and report relevant information to the Financial Intelligence Unit.
- Methods such as eye-blinking, reading a flashing code, or writing it down and taking a selfie exclude blind users.
- The SC has consistently held that accessibility for PwDs is a 'constitutional imperative'.

Should NOTA be included in all elections compulsorily?

When was NOTA first introduced? What is the Election Commission's position on NOTA?

Sanjay Kumar

The story so far:

Recently, the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) for including NOTA as an option compulsorily in every election, even if there is only one single candidate.

When was NOTA introduced?

NOTA or the 'None of the Above' option was introduced in Indian elections for the first time in 2013 on the PIL filed by the People's Union for Civil Liberties which sought a mechanism to "recognise the right of a voter not to vote, but still the secrecy of his having not voted is not maintained in its implementation..."

Is NOTA relevant in Indian elections?

It is true that not many voters have opted for NOTA during the last national election and the other subsequent State-level elections. However, not holding an election in a constituency because there is only one candidate, would mean denying voters the chance of expressing their opinion (through NOTA) against that single candidate who will anyhow get elected unopposed. The Election Commission (EC) has argued against NOTA stating that it has not brought in the desired results as not many voters have opted for NOTA in past elections. But one should not forget that NOTA is a way through which our electoral system can become more responsive to people.

What is the EC's argument?

The EC is completely opposed to the idea of making NOTA a compulsory option in all constituencies even if there is only one candidate contesting the election. The Election Commission presented data that in all the Lok Sabha elections held since 1971, there have been only six uncontested elections. Another data point cited by the EC was that since 1952, there have been only nine cases of candidates getting elected unopposed. The EC's lawyer said that, "the chance of election being uncontested has become a rarity which is also proven by statistical data; hence Supreme Court should not even entertain such a PIL". They went on to argue that "treating NOTA as mandatorily contesting candidate in all direct uncontested elections does not find a place in the statues and same would require legislative amendments in the provisions of Representation of the People Act 1951, and the conduct of Election Rules 1961".

Since it is such a rarity, the EC should not have its hands full. If the EC can conduct elections in such a large number of constituencies given its resources, holding elections in constituencies, with a NOTA option, even if there is only one candidate, should not amount to a lot of additional work.

Are NOTA voters a minority?

It is true that looking in terms of per cent only little more than 1% of voters, voted for NOTA in the three Lok Sabha elections (2014, 2019 and 2024) held since NOTA was introduced. But given the size of the electorate in one Parliamentary constituency, each having on an average about 25 lakh voters, even these numbers are not small. There are many State assembly elections where little more than 1% opted for NOTA over the last decade, the highest being in Bihar with 2.48% during the 2015 Assembly election, followed by Gujarat with 1.8% during the 2017 Assembly elections. If one looks at the NOTA votes over the years in different States, one sees that it was slightly higher in the very first election held in the State after NOTA was introduced but declined in subsequent elections, although the trend is not linear.

What next?

Some reforms are needed. One can be by fixing the minimum per cent of votes to be polled by the candidate as a benchmark for getting elected depending upon the size of the constituency. The other method could be by giving legitimacy to NOTA votes and voters, by making a provision for re-election if certain percentage of voters opt for NOTA in an election.

Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS.

THE GIST

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- The EC is completely opposed to the idea of making NOTA a compulsory option in all constituencies even if there is only one candidate contesting the election.
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Innovation Exhibition at EPCET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

East Point College of Engineering and Technology (EPCET), Bengaluru, hosted "Vibration-2025" students project exhibition featuring over 150 innovative projects by students and faculty on Wednesday.

S.V. Rajiv Gowda, CEO of East Point Group of Institutions, inaugurated the event which showcased pioneering solutions across science, engineering, environment, and social innovation.

Highlights included a Semi-Pilot Electric Vehicle (SPEV), earthquake-resistant bridges, explosive-detecting sensors, waste-to-energy devices, and assistive technologies for the people with disabilities.

The SPEV, developed by final-year students under Sahadeva G.N., Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department, demonstrated sustainable transport for short distances.

The exhibition highlighted practical applications and sustainability, among others.

Namma Metro's Yellow Line to partially begin services in June

Its launch has been repeatedly postponed, mainly due to delays in arrival of driverless train sets

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

As commuters eagerly anticipate the launch of Namma Metro's Yellow Line in Bengaluru, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials have said that the line will begin operations in June, but only with partial service. In a move likely to disappoint many, metro trains will initially stop only at major stations, with full service across all stops expected at a later date.

The Yellow Line, a 19.15-km corridor stretching between R.V. Road and Bommasandra, has been structurally ready for several months. However, its launch has been repeatedly postponed, mainly due to delay in the arrival of the much-needed driverless train sets. Despite these challenges, BMRCL officials have now said that they will commence limited services using just three trains, each running at 30-minute intervals.

BMRCL officials say that limited services will begin using just three trains, each running at 30-minute intervals. FILE PHOTO

"In the initial phase, apart from the terminal stations R.V. Road and Bommasandra, only five key stations will be operational. With just three trains, we can manage one every half-hour. As we receive more train sets, we plan to increase frequency and progressively open more stations along the route," said a senior BMRCL official.

Commuters upset

Commuters have expressed their disappointment. "I was really looking forward to using the Yellow Line for my daily commute, especially since the BTM Layout station is just a short walk from my house. Now, I'll have to go all the way to Jayadeva or Central Silk Board since these are major stations, which completely defeats the purpose. It's frustrating to wait this long and still not have full service," said Ramesh Hegde, a software engineer working in Electronics City.

Sneha M., a resident of Kodichikanahalli, said, "We've seen the metro line built and ready for months, and now, just when it's about to open, they say trains won't stop at all stations. It's very disappointing. There's no proper bus connectivity from my area to Bommanahalli station. I don't even know which stations will be operational. I guess I'll have to rely on my scooter or autos." The Yellow Line is critical to connecting southern Bengaluru, including the IT hub in Electronics City, to the rest of the metro network. But the journey to this point has been bumpy.

Third train set arrives

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The third train set arrived at Hebbagodi depot near Electronics City on May 13 night. "All six cars have been unloaded and we will begin testing from May 15," an official said.

Two additional train sets are expected to be delivered by the end of July, or early August. Once fully operational, the Yellow Line will be served by a fleet of 15 six-car trains, totalling 90 coaches.

In 2019, Chinese firm CRRC (China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation) was awarded a ₹1,578-crore contract to supply 216 coaches. However, the firm failed to set up a manufacturing facility in India as required, causing major setbacks.

BMRCL issued multiple notices to CRRC and even considered invoking a ₹372-crore bank guarantee. Eventually, CRRC partnered with Kolkata-based Titagarh Rail Systems to complete the contract. This collaboration has somewhat stabilised deliveries, although delays persist.

Trial runs began on March 7, 2024. BMRCL has been testing the network with the two train sets currently available.

IPL: Namma Metro services extended on May 17 and 23

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has announced an extension of Namma Metro services in view of the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 cricket matches scheduled at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on May 17 and 23.

Four terminal stations

According to a release issued on Thursday by BMRCL, to facilitate easy travel for cricket fans returning home late after the matches, BMRCL will operate its last trains from all four terminal metro stations, Whitefield (Kadugodi), Challaghatta, Silk Institute, and Madavara until 1.00 a.m. on both match days.

The last train from Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Station, Majestic, heading towards each of these terminals, will depart at 1.35 a.m. on both match days, the BMRCL release added.

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No.MLBCC-2/DB/4701 KTR PKG,-SDT-14/e-tender/2025-26/251,252, 253,254,255,256,257, 258,259,260, 261, 262, 263 & 264 , Dated : 12-05-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through K.P.P. Portal system only)
(One and Two cover system)

Electronic percentage tender through e-procurement platform is invited by the Executive Engineer, KNNL, MLBCC Division No.2, Navilutheertha, on behalf of M.D., KNNL Bangalore for taking up the following work from the Eligible contractors registered under KPWD The tenderers are required to apply in two cover system (as per KTTP act 2000)

Estimated amount Rs. 20.00 to 500.00 Lakhs.

For Work Indent Numbers. 2936, 2937, 2938 & 2941

1. Last date of tender receipt : 22-05-2025 up to 4.00 PM. 2. Cover –I , Financial Bid will be opened on 23-05-2025 after 4.30 PM.

For Work Indent Numbers. 2878, 2935, 2940, 2942, 2943, 2944, 2945, 2946, 2950 & 2951

1. Pre Bid Meeting on 16-05-2025 at 11.00 AM, 2. Last date of tender receipt : 22-05-2025 up to 4.00 PM. 3. Cover –I ,Technical, Bid will be opened on 23-05-2025 after 4.30 PM 4. Cover – II, Financial Bid will be opened on 26-05-01-2025 after 11.00 AM.

Further information about electronic tendering can be had from www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-(V.K. Mudigoudar.)
Executive Engineer
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-248/KSMCA/2025-26 **KNNL, MLBCC.Dn. no.2 Naviluteertha**

Lokayukta raids seven govt. officials in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta officials raided the offices and residence of seven government officials in different parts of Karnataka on May 15 morning.

Several teams were involved in the raids that covered 12 locations in Bengaluru, seven in Tumakuru, eight in Bengaluru Rural district, five in Yadgir, and four each in Mangaluru and Vijayapura.

The officials whose houses and offices were raided are Tumakuru – Rajashekar, Project Director, Nirmiti Kendra; Mangaluru – Manjunath, Survey Supervisor, Dakshina Kannada district; Vijayapura – Renuka Satarle, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Abhivruddhi Nigama; Bengaluru – Murali T.V., Additional Director, Directorate of Urban and Rural Planning; Bengaluru – H.R. Nataraj, Inspector, Legal Metrology; Bengaluru Rural – Anant Kumar, SDA, Hoskote taluk office; Yadgir – Umakanth, Shahpur taluk.

The swoop down carried out by Lokayukta officials found a total of ₹22.7 crore worth movable and immovable assets which is disproportionate to their known source of income.

Impersonation case: Cybercrime police register FIR against one

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central division cybercrime police have registered an FIR against an unknown person for impersonation as the Commissioner of the Department of Commerce and Industries. The police said that the accused allegedly tried to extort money from the staff.

Based on a complaint filed by aclerical staff of the department, the police charged the accused under section 66(c) (identity theft) of IT act for further investigation.

The incident came to light when staff members of the department received messages from an unknown number with the photo and name of the commissioner, the complaint stated.

According to the complaint, the WhatsApp number had the name and display photograph of Gunjan Krishna, the commissioner of the department. The number from which the staff received the message did not belong to the commissioner.

The police are now trying to track down the accused based on the call record details.

This is the second such incident that the central cybercrime police is handling.

On March 14, Deepak Doreyawar, Principal Director, State Audit and Accounts Department, filed a similar complaint that his WhatsApp number had been hacked using which the accused had made his juniors transfer the money.

According to the complaint, the accused used the contact list of Mr. Doreyawar and messaged his juniors and staff asking for money. Thinking that it was genuine, many staff members had transferred money.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that the last page of Original Gift Deed dt.27.9.2016, Registration No.KCH-1-02806-2016-17, CD No.KCHD212, Book 1, registered in the Office of Sub Registrar, Kacharkanahalli (Gandhinagar), Bangalore, Registered in the name of Mrs. Syeda Rehana Banu, in respect of schedule property, has been lost while travelling at Ganganagar, Bangalore on 10.5.2025 and complaint has been already lodged vide Lost Report No.1604640/2025. Bangalore City Police, on 13.5.2025, regarding loss of last page of Original Gift Deed, by my client, any person's finding same may hand over to the undersigned or any police station. Further, my client shall not be held responsible for any act, deed or transactions done on the lost document for any reason. Despite this specific PUBLIC NOTICE, if any one tries to use the lost document by misrepresentation or wrongly utilizes the above said document, then legal action will be initiated as per law by my client and anybody dealing with the schedule property in this regard other than my client will be doing so at their own risk.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of Residential Property bearing **Site No.7**, Old Assessment No.194, New No.195, situated at **Kacharakanahalli Village. Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore** Now assigned as Site No.7, 3rd Block, Arabic College Back Side, Bangalore, now comes under BBMP Limits, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 15 feet; and North to South: 30 feet; in all total area **450 sq.ft.**, building thereon, and bounded on : **East by: Site No.8; West by: Remaining Portion of the same property Site No.7; North by: Private Property; South by: Road.**

LAYAK ALI A., B. Com., LL.B.,
Syed Habibe, BBA, LL.B.,
Advocates & Consultants
No.31, 6 Main Road, Pillappa Block, Ganganagar, RT Nagar PO, Bangalore-32 Mob. No.9844174668

THE HOTEL INDUSTRIALISTS CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.,
Regd. Office: "Sahakara Sourabha", No.234, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru - 560 018. Phone: 080-26678329, 26612482, 41277283, E-mail: ho@hicbank.com, Website: www.hicbank.com

Tender – cum – Auction Sale Notice

AUCTION SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY UNDER SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002.

Whereas, the Bank has issued notice under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002 and in pursuant to and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (4) of the Act, the Authorised Officer, **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd, Chamrajpet Branch, Bangalore** has taken possession of the mortgaged properties including those more fully described hereunder, and the Bank has decided to sell the below mentioned property under the provisions of the SARFAESI Act read with the relevant rules of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Description of Property and Boundaries & Measurement	Reserve Price and EMD	Balance Outstanding Amount to be paid to Bank	Date & Time of opening tender & place of auction
	DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY				
1.	**(1) Mr. Nanjunda Swamy T V** S/o Late T M Veera Basappa, No.165, Jnanabharathi Layout, Nagadevanahalli, Bengaluru-560056.	All that part and parcel of the owner property bearing Site No.2569, formed by BDA, situated at 2nd Block Extension, Sir M Vishveshwaraiah Layout, Bangalore, and in measuring on the East to West 9.00 meters and on the North to South 12.00 meters, in all measuring 108.00 square meters. Bounded By: East : Property bearing No.2570, West : Property bearing No.2568, North : Road, South : Property bearing No.2547.	**Rs.71,74,875/- (Rupees Seventy One Lakhs Seventy Four Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Only)** **EMD: 10% of the Reserve Price Rs.7,17,488/- (Rupees Seven Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Four Hundred Eighty Eight Only)**	**Rs. 6,18,978/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only) as on 30/04/2025**	**04/06/2025 at 11.30 AM** **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd, Chamrajpet Bangalore.**

Terms and Conditions of Auction Sale: - 1. The Tender form can be collected from **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., "Sahakara Sourabha" No.234, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru-560018. (ph. 080-41277283)** on all working days during office hours. **2.** The intending bidders should submit their bids in the prescribed tender form in closed cover along with EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price by means of Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order drawn in favour of **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bangalore-** payable at Bangalore. The Demand Draft / Banker's Cheque / Pay Order shall be drawn after the date of publication of this Tender – cum – Auction Sale Notice. **3.** Tenders not in the prescribed format will not be accepted. The tender along with the EMD shall be submitted at **The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bangalore** latest by **03/06/2025 before 5.00 P M.** Tender without EMD shall be summarily rejected. **4. The property "SHALL NOT"** be sold below the reserve price. 5.In case the bidder is not successful the E M D amount shall be refunded without interest. **6.** The EMD amount shall be liable for forfeiture without prior notice, if the successful bidder fails to adhere to the terms and conditions of the Auction Sale. **7.** The sealed tenders will be opened by the Authorised Officer in the presence of the available / attending bidders at **11.30 AM on 04/06/2025, 8.** After opening the tenders, the intending bidders may be given opportunity at the discretion of the Authorised Officer to have, intense bidding amongst themselves to enhance the offer Price. **9.** The successful bidder shall deposit 25% of the Sale Price (inclusive of EMD) immediately after the auction sale, on the same day, in Cash or Demand Draft and the balance of the Sale Price within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale. In case of default by the successful bidder, all the amounts deposited till then shall be forfeited without notice and the property shall be put for re-auction. **10.** The successful bidder shall bear the statutory dues / taxes / charges / property tax / E B charges / water charges / conveyance charges such as stamp duty, registration fee etc. that is required to be paid in order to get the property conveyed in his favour, as per the applicable laws. **11.** The Authorised Officer has absolute right to accept or reject any or all of the tender or/ bid / offer and / or adjourn / postpone / cancel the Auction Sale without assigning any reason, and also to modify an or all terms and conditions of the sale without prior notice. **12.** The sale is subject to confirmation by the Bank. **13.** The property can be inspected by the intending bidder between **10.00 AM and - 5.00PM** at his expenses at the address mentioned in the Schedule. **14.** The property is put for sale on **"AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" and "AS IS WHAT IS CONDITION".** The intending bidder shall satisfy himself about the title, ownership, statutory approvals, encumbrances etc. of the property. **(15)** In case of stay of further proceedings by DRT/DRAT/High Court or any other court, the auction may either be deferred or cancelled and persons participating in the sale shall have no right to claim damages, compensation or cost for such postponement or cancellation. **(16)** This is also notice to the (Borrowers /Guarantors / Mortgagors) aforesaid loan about holding of auction sale on above mentioned date if their dues are not repaid in full, other terms and conditions applicable as per the Act.

For further details the intending bidders may contact the Authorised Officer, The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd., Bangalore "Sahakara Sourabha" No.234, 2nd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajapet, Bengaluru-560018, for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of property (Contact No.080-41277283) or Mr. Niranjan Kumar T Mob: 9632383697 (M/s. SUN DEBT MANAGEMENT SERVICES PVT LTD) E-Mail: ho@hicbank.com

Date: 14.05.2025
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
The Hotel Industrialists Co-Op Bank Ltd.

Mukhyamantri to be staged tomorrow at Ravindra Kalakshetra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kalagangotri, a 54-year-old Kannada amateur theatre group, will stage its popular play *Mukhyamantri* on May 17.

The show is scheduled at 7.30 p.m. at Ravindra Kalakshetra. Popular actor and politician Chandru, who plays the role of a chief minister in the play, has since come to be known as 'Mukhyamantri' Chandru.

875th show

Directed by B.V. Rajaram, the performance will mark the 875th show of *Mukhyamantri*. The play follows a determined protagonist who is intent on retaining his position as chief minister, despite efforts by his party president to unseat him.

Adaptation

The Kannada drama is based on a novel of the same name by Chanakya Sen.

Originally written in Hindi, it was later translated into Kannada by renowned theatre and film actor T.S. Lohitashwa. Tickets are priced at ₹150.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PREMA N, W/o Suresh Babu, R/a 169, Sai Paramesh Apt, G2, 1st Cross, Ramdev Garden, HBR Layout, Kalyan nagar, Bengaluru-560043 state that at the time of admission of my daughter Haasini Suresh into SFX School by mistake we parents had given mother's name as Prema Suresh instead of the correct name Prema.N as per the birth certificate. I further declare that my correct name is Prema.N vide affidavit dated 14.05.2025 sworn before Notary C.Sharada, B'lore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARCHANA .P GUDKA, W/o Pankaj Veljibhai Gudka, aged about 51 years, R/at No. 457, 4th Main Road, Nagendra Block, BSK 3rd Stage, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore-560 050 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **ARCHANA SHAH** to **ARCHANA .P GUDKA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ARCHANA .P GUDKA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15-05-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **S.N. MADHU** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Baba V Nadgir S/o Venkatrao G Nadgir, aged about 54 years, residing at Flat 101, Ground Floor, "Siri Lotus Apartments" No. 4&5, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560 061 I corrected my Daughter's name in Aadhar card and Passport as **Abhignya B Nadgir,** vide affidavit dated: 13-05-2025, sworn before **P.N.Nagesh** Advocate/Notary, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Aniketh B Nadgir, S/o Baba V Nadgir, aged about 23 years, residing at Flat 101, Ground Floor, "Siri Lotus Apartments" No. 4 & 5, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560 061 have corrected my name in Aadhar card and Passport as **Aniketh B Nadgir,** vide affidavit dated: 13-05-2025, sworn before **P.N.Nagesh** Advocate /Notary, Bangalore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUNAINA R Vijayadev spouse of Rohith Vijayadev presently residing at Flat No.902, Tower-D, Mittal Elanja Apartments, Kogilu Main Road, Opp. to Millenium World School, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560064, have changed my name from Sunaina R Vijayadev to Sunaina Rohith vide affidavit dated 09-05-2025 sworn before Notary H.K. Gopalagowda, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public, my client intent to purchase the Land and building, Old Door No.60/27, New door No.4, 9th Street, Dr.Radhakrishnan Road, Mylapore, Comprised in R.S.No.1071/15 of Mylapore Division, Block No.22, measuring an extent of 3080 Sq.ft., together with building, EB Service, Deposit, Water Connection and etc., Mylapore-Triplicane Taluk, Chennai District, acquired by Partition Deed, vide Doc.No.1487/2006, Book 1, SRO/Mylapore, allotted to M G Parameswaran in 'A' Schedule property in the partition deed and enjoyment of the same, now in the Public Notice any person having or claiming any right, title, claim, demand in respect of the said property or to any part thereof by way of sale, exchange, mortgage, let, lease, lien charge, maintenance, license, gift, inheritance, share, possession, easement, trust, previous any agreement, any suite in the court, bequest possession, assignment or encumbrance or whatsoever nature or otherwise are hereby requested to intimate to the under sign in writing in address mentioned below of any such claims accompanied all necessary and supporting document within 10 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which it shall be hereof no claims and that claims if any have been waived of undersigned shall proceed to issue the respect of the above said property.

Advocate
Dr. M. GOVINDARAJ, MA., LLB., Ph.D.
No.12, Maraimalai Adigal Street, Rajakilpakkam, Chennai-600073.
Ph.No.9444068566
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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Ultimate daredevil: Tom Cruise in a scene from 'Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning'. AP

Mission (im)possible: how Tom Cruise is running to keep our dreams alive

Unlike 'No Time to Die', in which Daniel Craig coldly killed our collective agent-running-in-the-field fantasies, the Mission Impossible films, from 1996 to 2025, has an untiring Tom Cruise racing on trains, planes and automobiles to serve our favourite comfort food

Mini Anthikad Chhibber

Tom Cruise is a bonafide movie star, probably the last of a dying breed. Whether he is gifting the famous white chocolate coconut Bundt cake in the holiday season to his loved ones, or standing on top of London's BFI IMAX Cinema, or doing a charming Namaste, he grabs eyeballs and mind space. He works hard to keep the magic alive, doing his hair-raising stunts, producing, and otherwise being completely involved in his movies.

While Cruise has been part of innumerable blockbusters, and a few franchises, it is the *Mission: Impossible* movies that have cemented his place in Hollywood heaven. *Mission: Impossible*, released almost 30 years ago on May 22, 1996, was directed by the sultan of style, Brian De Palma. A reboot of the eponymous 1966 television series, *Mission: Impossible* was Cruise/Wagner Productions' first project.

Beginning of the saga

The film was enormous fun, blindingly successful, and laid the template for the movies that followed, from the music and mission briefs to the masks and Macguffins. Lalo Schifrin's *M:I* theme, probably using Morse code as the starting point (the code for M.I. is two dashes followed by two dots, which could translate to the five-beat rhythm Schifrin used), provided the adrenalin rush.

As technology evolved, so did the way the mission briefs were delivered to Ethan Hunt – from video cassettes to sunglasses and then going retro in an old fashioned phone box. Whatever the means of delivery, the message would "self destruct in five seconds", calling for solid speed reading and comprehension skills.

And then there were the stunts. In the first film as Cruise's Hunt hung suspended inside the secure CIA building, we held our collective breath, dreading the bead of sweat will drop, which would set off all kinds of alarms. There was the rodent in the shaft and Hunt saying "toast" to add the right timbre to the tension. And how about the meeting with the smiling arms dealer, Max (Vanessa Redgrave), on the TGV to exchange the 'NOC' list, which ends with a helicopter crashing in a tunnel with its propeller blade mere inches from Hunt's throat?

Better and better

John Woo's *Mission: Impossible 2* in 2000 came with the director's trademark slo-mo, pigeons and flying coats and had a suitably ludicrous plot involving killer viruses and their antidotes, their names taken from Greek myth – Chimera and Bellerophon. J. J. Abrams made his directorial debut with *Mission: Impossible III* in 2006. The film was darker and grittier thanks to a brilliant Philip Seymour Hoffman as yet another arms dealer, Owen Davian.

Brad Bird's *Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol* came out in 2011 and will be mainly remembered for Anil Kapoor's weird maharaja turn, sets in Vancouver dressed to look like Bengaluru and of course, Cruise's antics on the Burj Khalifa, where "blue is glue and red is dead," in the immortal words of Christopher McQuarrie, who has directed all the *M:I* films since.

Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation in 2015 saw the introduction of Rebecca Ferguson's disavowed MI6 agent, Ilsa Faust. *Mission: Impossible - Fallout* (2018) revealed a duplicitous CIA agent in Henry Cavill's August Walker.

Hunt shares a moment with ex-wife Julia (Michelle Monaghan), while Max's daughter, Alanna (Vanessa Kirby), continues the family business as the White Widow.

Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One (that is a mouthful) in 2023 was meant to be the first of a two-part conclusion to the adventures of Ethan Hunt and the IMF, but Cruise has said if Harrison Ford can play Indiana Jones in his 80s, there is no need to slow down Ethan Hunt on the basis of his age.

A series that stands out

Recent spy thrillers on streamers, including *The Agency* and *The Day of the Jackal*, or movies such as Steven Soderbergh's *Black Bag*, walk a shadowy path of false identities and lies. The *M:I* brand of espionage thriller, on the other hand, has a lightness of touch, the masks notwithstanding. Hunt is working tirelessly to keep the world safe unlike Michael Fassbender's Martian in *The Agency*, who has doubts of whether he wishes to save the country or the woman he loves.

The Daniel Craig James Bond movies started off as a grittier take on Ian Fleming's superspy but by the fifth film, *No Time To Die* (2021), had become rather self indulgent and dour.

Cruise on the other hand has not lost sight of his one and only mission, which is to keep us entertained, and no mountain or airplane is too high for him to jump off from to achieve that.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day in 1966, the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee issued a circular that outlined Mao Zedong's ideas on the Cultural Revolution. A quiz on that period

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1

In November 1965, a review of a play about a Ming dynasty official who criticised the emperor, titled "Hai Rui Dismissed From Office", was seen as a spark for the Cultural Revolution. Where was this review published?

QUESTION 2

The agents of the Cultural Revolution were students. These shock troops were deployed to terrorise and persecute those seen as enemies of the Revolution. What was this cohort called?

QUESTION 3

One of the early objectives of the Cultural Revolution was to wipe out old ideas, old culture, old customs, and old habits. What were these collectively known as?

QUESTION 4

During the Cultural Revolution, more than 16 million young people were sent to the countryside to work. Among them was a boy who was sent to a remote area in a province in northeastern China. He earned a degree in Japanese and went on to serve as China's Ambassador to Japan. Today he is a prominent figure in China and in the world. Name him.

QUESTION 5

During the Cultural Revolution, various techniques were deployed to reform the thought process of citizens. One of them was to publicly humiliate people who were accused of being "class enemies". What was this technique called?

Visual question:
For five years during the Cultural Revolution, this place, an embodiment of ancient values, was closed. What is its name and which leader issued the directive to close it and protect it by deploying soldiers?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. From May 11 to 13 in 1998, India conducted a series of five nuclear tests called Operation _____ in Pokhran. **Ans: Shakti**
2. During the series, the shaft for the first device was codenamed _____ _____, the second 'Taj Mahal' and the third 'Kumbhkaran'. **Ans: White House**
3. The impetus for the Pokhran II tests were led in 1996 by A.B. Vajpayee, and was delayed because he couldn't contact _____ _____. **Ans: Abdul Kalam**
4. India's decision to test nuclear weapons became all but clear when it became increasingly critical of this Treaty. **Ans: Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty**
5. Following Pokhran II, Pakistan conducted multiple nuclear tests by this name on May 28 and 30, 1998. **Ans: Chagai**
Visual: Name this noted Pakistani nuclear physicist. **Ans: Pervez Hoodbhoy**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Erfanally Oosmany| M. Suresh Kumar| Dodo Jayaditya| Sunil Madhavan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Is there a difference in pronunciation between the noun 'prophecy' and the verb 'prophesy'?"

"Yes, the 'cy' in the noun is pronounced 'si' as in 'sit' and the 'sy' in the verb is pronounced like 'sigh'."

"What is the difference between 'impunity' and 'immunity'?"

" 'Impunity' means 'with freedom from punishment or injury'. He breaks the law with impunity as he is related to the Chief Minister. 'Immunity' is the ability to resist infection, disease, etc. He has developed immunity to criticism. He has been a politician for several decades."

"Is it incorrect to say 'He ran fastly'?"

"Yes. 'Fastly' doesn't exist. He ran fast and not fastly."

"How do you pronounce 'example'?"

"It is 'ig Zammpl'. The first 'e' is pronounced 'i as in 'fit', 'x' is pronounced 'g' as in 'give', 'a' is pronounced 'a' as in 'path', 'ple' as in 'people'. The stress is on the second syllable.

"Look who is coming. My batch-mate Ramu."

"You mean your class-mate? 'Batch-mate' is not used in British English. 'I belong to the 1962 batch of IAS candidates.' In British English, 'batch' is used with non-human referents. I have received a fresh batch of books. When you use it to refer to a group of people, you use the word 'group' and not 'batch'. But in India 'batch' is used widely instead of 'group'."

"What is the difference between 'Ram should have posted the letter' and 'Ram must have posted the letter'?"

" 'Ram should have posted the letter means that Ram did not post the letter. He was expected to but he didn't. 'Ram must have posted the letter' means your conclusion is that he would have posted the letter. You gave the letter to him about two hours ago and you assume that by now he would have posted the letter."

"What is the meaning of 'germane'?

"It means 'relevant to a subject under discussion'. What you are saying is not germane to what we are discussing. The 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'gentle', 'ger' is pronounced like 'ger' in 'Germany', mane rhymes with 'sane'. The stress is on the second syllable.

Published in The Hindu on July 16, 1996.

Word of the day

Decadent:
luxuriously self-indulgent; marked by excessive self-indulgence and moral decay

Usage: *I spent a decadent day at the spa.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/decadentpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɛkədənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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VRL MEDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

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2.5 lakh girls to get APF scholarship

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Azim Premji Foundation on Thursday announced the Azim Premji Scholarship for up to 2.5 lakh girl students from government schools across 18 States for pursuing higher education.

A scholarship of ₹30,000 will be given annually to girl students who have passed their 10th and 12th exams in government schools and have received admission in a bona fide higher education institution (HEI). These bona fide HEIs will include government HEIs and selective private HEIs. The scholarship will continue till the girl's college/university programme, as long as she successfully continues in

Anurag Behar

the programme. "There is no additional criteria or eligibility for the candidates. We are not conducting any exams or checking the financial backgrounds of the students," said Anurag Behar, the Chief Executive Officer of the Azim Premji Foundation.

The application process for 2025-26 will start in September 2025.

He stated the reason for such a type of screening was that more than 90% of government school children come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The scholarship aims to ease some of the financial burdens of girl students pursuing a higher education, rather than focus on too many checklists or screening processes.

He also noted that while primary school admissions for girls were almost equal to those of boys, higher education admission numbers showed a lesser percentage of girls. "Tuition fees are often waived off or given at a discount for girls from disadvantaged financial backgrounds. But additional expenses like commute, clothes, books etc discourage them from pursuing their higher education," he explained.

A pilot test of the 'Azim Premji Scholarship' was launched in 2024-25 across certain districts of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Jharkhand, where over 25,000 girls were selected for the scholarship. For the academic year of 2025-26, the scholarship has officially been launched across 18 States, some of which include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Telangana, Tripura, Odisha, and Mizoram.

The application process for 2025-26 will start in September 2025. Students can apply online. The scholarship program is a ₹250 crore commitment across three years by the foundation, and is likely to be expanded to cover the entire country in coming years.

CBSE class 10, 12: Students from THiS schools win big

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The students from the schools under The Hindu in School (THiS) programme have achieved excellent results in the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) examinations of class 10 and 12.

Ruthivik Srikanth, with 99.8% is the topper of class 10 of Presidency School, Bangalore South. Sahana Arunprasath is the class 12 science topper with 98%, Adrienna Luiz is the commerce topper with 98.2% and Vibha. H. A., is the humanities topper with 97.8%.

From BGS National Public School, Hulimavu, class 12, Abhinav Ramalingam Sundaram, is the science stream topper with 97.4%. Mitali Prabhu with 96.6% is the commerce topper and Nagappan Arun is the humanities stream topper with 95.8%. In class 10, Nidhi Rajiv Kirani is the topper with 99%.

From Freedom International School, HSR Layout, Sai Sreemayee Sistla is the class 12 science stream topper with 97.6%, Aadya Billore, 98.4% is the humanities stream topper and Nandeni Sharma, 94.6% is the commerce stream topper. Chirantana S, 98% is the topper of class 10.

Ayush Kishan Bhagwat, with 96.80% is the class 10 topper of St.Joseph's School, Vittal Mallya Road. In class 12, U. Kruthik, 94% is the science stream topper and Vikram Ramesh, 96.8% is the commerce stream topper.

From Auden School, Banashankari 3rd Stage, Hosakerehalli, M.P. Srinithi, 99% is the topper of class 10.

From National Hill View Public School, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Sai Nikhil Bommaka - 97.6% is the science stream topper of class 12, Saatvik Harish, 92.6% is the topper of commerce stream and Rhea Joshi, 94.6% is the topper of humanities stream. Arnav Venkatesh, 99.2% topped class 10.

With 96.6%, Poorvi Hegde is the topper of class 10 of Airaa Academy, Banashankari 6th stage, Hemmigepura. From Army Public School, ASC Centre & College, Adith Kumar, 97.2% is the class 10 topper. Kajal Tanwar, 96.8% is the topper of class 12.

Dash Sandeep Savant and Vaibhav Roy, with 96.7% are the toppers of class 10 from The Oxford Senior Secondary School, JP Nagar. Nooral Islam-96.8% (science) and Shriya V Dave 81% (commerce) are the toppers of class 12.

From JSS Public School, Banashankari 2nd stage, Manu Manjunath Neeralagi, 98.4% is the topper of class 10. From JSS Public School, HBR Layout, Vadapalli Pannaga Ruthvik, with 92.2% is the class 10 topper.

Archit Shukla, 98.3% is the topper of class 10 of SJR Public School, HBR Layout. From Sri Siddaganga Higher Primary School, Chandra Layout, with 96% Sai Shruthi K is the topper of class 10. Harsha .V, 96.6% is the topper of class 10 from HAL New Public school, HAL Central Township, Marathahalli.

Belagavi police register *suo motu* case against fake news on Sofia Qureshi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Belagavi police have registered a *suo motu* case against holders of three X accounts for posting and circulating fake news on social media platform about RSS activists ransacking the residence of Col. Sofia Qureshi's father-in-law at Konnur in Gokak taluk of Belagavi district. A case has been filed against accused Anees Uddin, Khubaani and Drrummii in the District CEN Police Station.

Belagavi Superintendent of Police Bhimashankar Guled told pressperssons that the accused Anees Uddin used Colonel Sofia Qureshi's name and posted on his X account that RSS activists had ransacked her in-law's house and the post was shared by the two others.

A *suo motu* case on causing hostility among two communities and instigating riots was registered on Thursday, he said.

He said that the post on X has now been deleted and they have sought details about the accused from the office of X.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby notified that **Smt.PREETHI.N** aged about 30 years, D/o **Sri. P. Narayana Murthy,** residing at No.36, "Skanda Nilaya", 3rd 'D' Cross, Near R.V.School, Rajgopalanagar, Peenya 14th Cross, Bangalore -560058, AADHAAR NO.XXXX XXXX 2991 is the owner of the Schedule Property described infra.

It is represented that the original Sale Deed dated 29.02.2000 executed by Sri.Bylarappa rep by his GPA holder Sri. Kaveriyappa in favour of Sri.P. Narayanamurthy and registered as doc no.12843, in Book-I, stored in C.D. no.40, at the office of Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore Urban District is lost/ misplaced. In this connection, an E- complaint bearing lost report no.1605247/2025 has been lodged on 13.05.2025 at Police Unit : Bangalore City.

The finder of the document is requested to surrender the Sale deed to the undersigned within 10 days from this day, failing which, it shall be deemed that the original Sale deed is irretrievably lost and certified copy of the same shall be obtained from the office of Sub-Registrar of Assurances in lieu of lost original for the purpose of records.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of northern portion of site bearing no. 24, Khaneshumari No.146, comprised in land bearing Sy no. 116, Laggere Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore admeasuring East to West : 40 ft., and North to South : 15 ft., and bounded as follows:-

On the **East by:**Road, **West by:** Private property, **North by:** Site bearing no.23, **South by:** Private property .

ASHWINI, Advocate, Pallavi & Associates, No.11, 'Kempuhonnu'Rathna Villas Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-56004

CENTRE FOR e-GOVERNANCE
(Society established by Government of Karnataka under e-Governance Secretariat, DPAR and registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960)
Room No.146, First Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building, Bengaluru - 560 001.

No: CEG-FIDOADM/20/2025-KUTUMBA (E-1744253) **Date: 15.05.2025**

NOTIFICATION

Centre for e-Governance invites application from eligible Group 'A' or Group 'B' Officers of State Government for filling of the following position on deputation basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Vacancy	Pay Scale	Qualification and Experience
1	Senior Project Manager	1	On their own pay scale	**Essential:** Group "A" officer with at least 3 years of experience or Group "B" officer with at least 5 years experience and belonging to Revenue Department or other Development Department. Those with field experience preferred. Experience in implementation/use of e-Governance projects is desirable.

Last Date for submission of application: 10 Jun 2025.

For application & more details please visit to: **https://ceg.karnataka.gov.in/** Contact Phone No: 080-22373840. Application to be sent through proper channel along with Vigilance Clearance, Performance Appraisal Reports for Last 5 (Group "B") / 3 years (Group "A") to **Chief Executive Officer, Centre for e-Governance,** Room No.146, 1st Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building, Dr . B.R.Ambedkar Road, Bengaluru-560 001.

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
Centre for e- Governance

DIPR/CP/666/MAA/2025-26

M.P. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Madhya Pradesh Undertaking)
Oil Fed Building, 01, Arera Hills, Bhopal
URL: https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, Phone : 0755-2578915
Dated : 13.05.2025

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders for following item/Services floated on website and portal Portal form Dated 13.05.2025 to next 30 days :

1. Online EOI No : 04/MPPHSCL/Services/2025, Dated : 09.05.2025
2. Online Tender Ref. No. T-664/MPPHSCL/Air Mattress/QC/2024, Dated : 13.05.2025 Uploaded on portal & Website.
3. Tender (s) for Storage Rack
4. Tender (s) for Dialysis Machine & RO Plant
5. Tender (s) for Various Equipment
6. Tender (s) for Various Drugs
7. Tender (s) for Various Surgicals & Consumables

All Prospective bidders are requested to visit "**www.mptenders.gov.in./ https://mpphscl.mp.gov.in, https://gem.gov.in"** for further details.
M.P. Madhyam/120078/2025 **CGM (Technical)**

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP Portal mode only)
KPTCL invites service bids for the following works.

I. No. CEE/TZ/HSN/SEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/2355-58 **Date: 14.05.2025**

Bid Enquiry No.: Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/ TZH/MNG/ 2025-26 Gangmen/01 for the work of Providing 20Nos of Line Maintenance Gang-men Service required (12 - Skilled & 8-Unskilled) to TLM Sub-Division, Kavoor of Operations Division, KPTCL, Kavoor & Kemar for a period of one year (12 months).

II. No. CEE/TZ/HSN/SEE(O)/AE-1/Drivers/2025-26/2404 **Date: 15.05.2025**

Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/TZH/Driver/2025-26/371, For providing the service of One Number Driver to Departmental Vehicle(Toyota Innova) KA 02 MW 0079 in the jurisdiction of Tr. Operation Zone, Hassan.

The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link **"tenders"** on or after for Sl. No. 1 **17.05.2025 and** for Sl. No. 2 **19.05.2025.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
Transmission(Operation) Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan- 573201, Telephone: 08172-231051.

MAHATRANSCO Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB) (LOCAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

SRM e-Tender No. T-2523/MSETCL/CO/Projects/Pre-Tender (RFx No. 6000001360)

MSETCL invites offers by SRM e-tendering in TWO bid system (Techno-Commercial Bid and Price Bid) from the eligible registered bidders for the following work as detailed below.

"Construction of 132 kV DCDC LILO Line on 132 kV Huoban-Sakri Line for 132 kV Pimpalner Substation (R.L. 29.394 km) under Nashik zone, MSETCL Maharashtra on turnkey basis"

Interested bidders may obtain further information available on the website. https://srmetender.mahatransco.in

The date of downloading of Bid documents available on the website is from 14.05.2025.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Projects), MSETCL

UTTARAKHAND POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(A Govt. of Uttarakhand Undertaking) (Corporate Identity No. **UA40109UR2001SGC025867/2358**)
Victoria Cross Vijeta Gabar Singh Urja Bhawan, Kanwali Road, Dehradun
E-mail : cgmupcl@yahoo.com, Website : www.upcl.org, Tel :0135-2762444, Fax : 0135-2763839

Websites:(www.mstcecommerce.com)

CORRIGENDUM FOR PURCHASE OF POWER UNDER LONG TERM PROCUREMENT AGAINST Tender Specification No. 21/CE(COMM)/ UPCL-21/LTPP/2025

The slight modification has been made against the Tender Specification No.21/CE(COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025 are as under:-

Amendment in RfQ and clarifications

Clause as per initial NIT	Revised clause (Be read as follows)
Period of Supply	**Period of Supply**
20 years from the Supply Commencement Date	**25 years** from the Supply Commencement Date

All other terms and conditions shall remain as per Tender Specification No. 21/CE (COMM)/UPCL-21/LTPP/2025 and its corrigendum.

No.: 266/EE(cm)/UPCL/A-2 Dt.: 15.05.2025 **SE (COMMERCIAL)**

SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATIONS | Use LED Bulb Save Electricity. (Toll-Free- 1912)
"Pay Electricity Bill Online 24x7 from www.upcl.org" (For information on Electricity Theft, Informer may report to Toll Free No. 1800 180 4185/Fax No.: 0135-2760911)

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Commissionerate of Agriculture,
Seshadri Road, Bengaluru – 560001

No: JDA(CD)/KBY/HDPE-GM-RfP-420GSM/2025-26 Date:15.05.2025

SHORT TERM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL NOTIFICATION

Short-term Request For Proposal (RfP) has been invited through e-Procurement platform **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** for empanelment of OEM/ Manufactures/ MoU Holders for Supply and laying of **High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) 420 GSM (500 Microns-Type-II) Geo Membrane Sheet** for lining of Water harvesting structures constructed (IS: 15351:2015 BIS license) under Departmental Krishi Bhagya Program for the year 2025-26 and 2026-27. Interested OEM/ Manufactures/ MoU Holders can participate in the RfP process.

RfP documents can be downloaded through e-Procurement portal. RfP applications can be downloaded through the e-Procurement portal **from 16.05.2025 to 30.05.2025** and the last date for submission of proposals is **30.05.2025, 5.30pm.**

Further, for any RfP related information Office of the Joint Director of Agriculture (Crop Development), Department of Agriculture, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560 001 can be contacted.

Sd/-
Director of Agriculture and Tender Inviting Authority

DIPR/CP/JA/695/2025-26

An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU
Telephone: +91-8431186388, E-mail: sabvmcri@gmail.com

No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/URO/12/2024-25 Dated: 15-05-2025
TENDER No: DME/2024-25/IND0958/CALL-3

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

e-Tenders is invited for interested eligible firms in accordance with KTPP Act for **Supply and Installation of Flexible Ureteronoscope for the Department of Urology at Bowring & Lady Curzon Hospital of SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.**

1) Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document is **from 15-05-2025. 2)** Last Date for Online Quires: **17-05-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 3)** Last Date and Time for Uploading of e-Tender in e-Procurement Portal: **22-05-2025 upto 5.30 PM. 4)** Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids: **26-05-2025 at 10.30 AM.**

For further details search in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and if any further details are required in this regard. Please contact the Director Cum Dean / Assistant Administrator of this institute during working days.

Sd/- Director Cum Dean
SABVMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/692/Adverto/2025-26

SVC CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD.
Corporate Office : LEGAL & RECOVERY DEPT.
SVC Tower, Nehru Road, Vakola, Santacruz (E), Mumbai- 400 055.

Branch Satara having Address at G3 & G4, Rajebhosale Heights, Behind S T Stand, Old RTO Road, Sadarbazar, Satara. Tel No.02162-226868/69

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured creditor, the Physical Possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the SVC Co-Operative Bank Ltd.,(Formerly Known as The Shamrao Vittal Co-operative Bank Ltd) will be sold on "As is Where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis "Without Recourse" basis on **06.06.2025** for recovery of **Rs.10,83,214.50** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Eighty Three Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen and Paise Fifty Only) as on **31/12/2024** together with future interest from **01/01/2025** at contractual rate plus legal costs/charges due to SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor from the borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor **1. M/s. Fleetintelly Serve Pvt. Ltd.,** Registered address at M-2, Inland Avenue, Commercial Complex Building, Kodialbail, Manglore 575002 AND 505/A/13, LIC Colony, Sadar Bazar, Tal. and Dist. Satara AND STPI, 4th Floor, IT Park, Hubali 580020 AND 825, 12th cross Road, Kalantra Technology, Siddharth Layout, Mysore, Karnataka 570011 AND unit no. 2&3 on upper ground floor Rukmini Kunj Appt., constructed at C.s.No. 599 Gurwar Peth, Satara. **2.Mrs.Gudibande Subba Rao Shivaranjani** R/o. 505/A/13, LIC Colony, Sadar Bazar, Tal.and Dist. Satara AND 98, Mico Layout, Arakere Banglore, 560076 AND C/O Sandeep Kumar Kulkarni, 78, Suparna, 6th Cross, 19th Main, C T Bed, Near T R Nagar Police Station, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangaluru Karnataka 560070. **3. Mrs. Nagajyothi Gudibande Subba Rao** R/o. New Laxmipura Extension, Manchanahalli, Gauribidnur, Chikkaballapur 561211, **4. Mr. Raghuram Rao** R/o. 505/A/13, LIC Colony, Sadar Bazar, Tal. and Dist. Satara AND C/O Sandeep Kumar Kulkarni, 78, Suparna, 6th Cross, 19th Main, C T Bed, Near T R Nagar Police Station, Banashankari 2nd stage, Bangaluru Karnataka 560070 AND 98, Mico Layout, Arakere Banglore, 560076.

The reserve price will be **Rs. 11,00,000/-** (Rupees Eleven Lakh Only) and the earnest money deposit will be **Rs. 1,10,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Ten Thousand Only)

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the commercial premises no. M-2, bearing corporation Door No. 4-1-85/18, Measuring about 190 Sq.feet in the mezzanine floor(being part of ground floor) of Inland Avenue Commercial Complex building together with 0.30% undivided right in the common areas and facilities of the building including such shares constructed on :

Item No.	R.S.No.	T.S.No.	Kissam	Extent A.C.
1	394	227/1(p)	Converted	0-35
2	394-2	227/2(P)	Converted	0-08
3	394-1	227/1(p)	Converted	0-01

Situated at Kodialbail village of Mangalore, Taluk Within Kodialbail Ward of Mangalore city corporation limits and also within the registration sub-district of Mangalore city.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link provided in SVC Co-operative Bank Ltd., the Secured Creditor's website i.e. **https://www.svcbank.com/Notice-Sale**.

Date : 15.05.2025
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/-
(Sarathy Somiah)
Authorized Officer & Assistant General Manager, Banglore South region

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Executive Engineer,PRE Division
Jawahar Road Koppal 583231 ,Karnataka . Email: eepredkpl@gmail.com,

No:EE:PRED:DN:KPL:/DB/TENDER/2025-26 /336 **Date: 14.05.2025**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Koppal, invites item rates tender through kppp one / two cover systems, from eligible PWD and PRE Department registered contractors through Standard Bid Document KW-1,2,3 & 4, under head of account 2024-25KKRDB, in different talukas of Koppal district . This scheme is fully funded by the Government of Karnataka . For more information contact above the office. Eligible contractors participate online by entering into kppp portal. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.1) IMPROVEMENTS TO ROAD FROM JALIHAL TO GOTAGI KM3.00 TO 5.00 AND BADRAGAL CROSS VIA PURTAGERI,ANTARTHANA KM0.00 TO 5.00 IN KUSHTAGI TALUK.KPL2421223254.APT Rs.396.23 LAKHS EMD Rs.595000.00 (2) IMPROVEMENTS OF ROAD FROM HANUMASAGAR BUS STAND TO GAJENDRAGAD MAIN ROAD IN KUSHTAGI TALUK.ಕುಷ್ಟಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ KPL2421223453 EST AMT Rs.150.00lakhs (3) KOPPAL DIST KUSHTAGI TALUK GHPS SEBINAKATTI, GHPS NANDAPUR, GHPS JUMALAPUR, GHPS TEGGIHAL, GHPS BALLUTAGI, GHPS N RAMPUR, GHPS JULAKUNTI, GHPS BASSAPUR, GHPS TUMARI KOPPA, GHPS SANGANHAL, GHPS KAVALABUDURU TANDA, GHPS VENKATAPUR, KARNATAKA PUBLIC SCHOOLS GHPS G.KANNYATAWARAGERA, GHPS NARINHAL, GHPS URDU KUSTAGI ಒಟ್ಟು 15 ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ Metal 18 Door Industrial locker storage cabinet with staple locking (75 X 36 X 19 Inch) ಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗೆ 6 ರಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 90 ಗಾದ್ರೇಜ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಕುಷ್ಟಗಿ ತಾಲೂಕಿನ K G B V HANAMASAGAR ವಸತಿ ಸಹಿತ ಶಾಲೆ K K G B V DOTIHAL ವಸತಿ ಸಹಿತ ನಿಲಯಗಳ ಮಕ್ಕಳಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ನಿಲಯಕ್ಕೆ 50 ಸೆಟ್ ಗಳಂತೆ 2 ಟೈರ್ ಕಾಟಾ ಹಾಗೂ ಬೆಡ್ ಹಾಗೂ Metal 18 Door Industrial locker storage cabinet with staple locking (75 X 36 X 19 Inch) ಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರತಿ ನಿಲಯಕ್ಕೆ 6 ರಂತೆ ಒಟ್ಟು 12 ಗಾದ್ರೇಜ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಪೂರೈಸುವುದು.KPL2421213493 est amt Rs.130.40 lakhs.

General instructions :-

1.Contractors participate in all tenders online only.2).Pre-qualification documents should be uploaded by scanning all certificates & other concerned documents online only.3)3.Pre-requisite EMD have to be pay online as per mentioned in eproc-portal. For more information, contractors need to consult to below signed official, officer, contractors may get the information by going through. http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal.This notified works can be downloaded in http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal from dated 16.05.2025

Tender Processing Fees: **As per E-Procurement.** Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal: **From 16.05.2025 time after 10.00 AM upto 26.05.2025 time 16.00 Hours.** Tender Receipt last dates: **From 16.05.2025,time 11.00 AM upto 26.05.2025 Time 16.30 hrs.** Technical Bid open date and time(Both Technical & Financial bids are opened as same date for KW 1 & KW 2 ,KW-3 Works: **27.05.2025 in office hours.** Financial Bid open date and time: **For KW 4 After getting Technical approval from competent authority, bid will be opened.** INDENT NO :12984 TENDER SCHEDULE Download of Schedule-B in Eproc Portal: **From 16.05.2025 time after 10.00 AM upto 23.06.2025 time 16.00 H rs.** Tender Receipt last dates: **From 16.05.2025 time after 11.00 AM upto 23.06.2025 time 16.30 Hours.** Technical Bid open date and time: **24.06.2025 in office hours.**

Note: The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or reject any of the tenders at any stage without assigning the reasons .

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PRE Division Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/92/KSMCA-2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Shivamogga
Office of The Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Divison, Sagara.
No.: EE/PRE/DS/Soraba/KW-4/AE/JE/2025-26/173
Date: 09.05.2025

Tender Notice (Through "K.P.P.P.")

From this Division to quote Itemwar rates for the works approved under Viveka School Facility Scheme for the year 2025-26, on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Itemwar Tenders are invited through "K.P.P.P.", as per the Rules of the Department in Standard Document for Procurement of Work KW-1, 2 & 3 forms from eligible contractors registered in Panchayat Raj Engineering/Public Works Department and Registered in "K.P.P.P." Institution. Contractors remitting Form Fee and E.M.D. through filling of Challan in e-payment (Credit Card/Direct Debit/NEFT & OTC) should submit two days earlier to the last date.

1) Date for downloading Tender Form: from 09.05.2025 to 29.05.2025. **2**) Last date to submit Tender Form: 29.05.2025, 17:00:00 **3**) Date of opening bid: 30.05.2025, 17:01:00 **4**) Date of opening financial bid: 09.06.2025, 11:00:00

For details of "K.P.P.P." website tender contact the office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Sagara and can be viewed in e-procurement website (www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) and can be downloaded. Further information can be obtained from the concerned case worker of this office on phone No. 08183-226064 during office hours or contact hp helpdesk phone No.: 080-25501216, 25501227.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Sagara

DIPR/smg/NO:80/05/ksmca/25-26/237

GBA comes into effect; city to have at least 3 corporations

The current BBMP region of 709 sq. km notified as Greater Bengaluru Area

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, while announcing the notification of the Greater Bengaluru Area on Thursday, said that there will be at least three corporations in Bengaluru.

The Greater Bengaluru Governance Act, 2024, that has come into effect from Thursday, provides for one to seven municipal corporations, each with up to 150 wards. Mr. Siddaramaiah has now indicated that the current civic limits will likely be divided into three corporations.

However, till the new corporations are notified, the current Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will continue to work as it is. All functionaries will continue to have the same powers and discharge duties as per the BBMP Act, 2020. The transition will be gradual, sources said.

The Brand Bengaluru Committee and the Joint Legislature Committee recommended earmarking the Greater Bengaluru Area to be governed by the Chief Minister-led Greater Bengaluru Authority, at around 1,000 sq. km, including around 25 urban villages on the city's outskirts. The act provides for the same.

Till the new corporations are notified, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike will continue to work as it is. FILE PHOTO

Governance Bill

However, the Urban Development Department (UDD), which on Wednesday notified the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2024, on Thursday notified that the present civic limits - BBMP area of 709 sq. km - will be the new Greater Bengaluru Area. However, the UDD has now notified the Greater Bengaluru Area to be only the existing BBMP area of 709 sq. km.

"There was an intense lobby by legislators of several areas around Bengaluru, including as far as parts of Tumakuru district, to include them in the Greater Bengaluru Area. Not all requests can be accommodated. Moreover, at least till new corporations are drawn up, some bare minimum civic infrastructure comes up in these new villages, just declaring them as part of civic limits will only confuse. So, as a beginning, we have declared the BBMP area as Greater Bengaluru Area, but this will probably be expanded as and when we draw up the boundaries of multiple corporations," a senior official said.

The Hindu had recently reported on how lobbying by legislators and economic constraints may force the State government to limit the Greater Bengaluru Area to the jurisdiction of the currently functional BBMP.

Soon, the State government is expected to constitute the Greater Bengaluru Area under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister and name Additional Chief Secretary, UDD, and Administrator, BBMP, Tushar Giri Nath as the Administrator, GBA, who will then spearhead the transition of the city to the new governance structure.

1,271 candidates graduate from UAS-Bangalore at 59th convocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 1,271 candidates were conferred with bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees, with over 150 gold medals to 63 students during the 59th convocation ceremony of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS)-Bangalore was held on Thursday.

Speaking on occasion, U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director, IFFCO, New Delhi said, "In India over, 90% of the soil across 27 States is deficient in nitrogen, 85% lack sufficient organic carbon and significant proportions are deficient in phosphorus, potassium, boron, zink, iron and sulphur. These deficiencies contribute to widespread malnutrition with nearly one-third stunted and high rate of anaemia among children and women."

He said that the indiscriminate use of agrochemicals has caused the accumulation of toxic residues and heavy metals.

"Healthy soil, which once teemed with life, is now losing its fertility, productivity and resilience," he added.

Toppers at the convocation ceremony of the University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru on Thursday.

"Decades of overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides have led to a sharp decline in soil organic matters. Modern farming practices often rely heavily on synthetic inputs, leading to residues in the final produce. These residues not only pose health risks to consumers, but also affect the export potential of agricultural commodities due to stringent international safety standards," Mr. Awasthi added.

Speaking about adopting technology in farming, he said traditional farming has been based on age old practices, depending heavily on farmer's experience and the natural forces around them. Today our population is growing, natural resources are shrinking and climate change is knocking at our door.

"With the help of AI, images from drones and cameras are analysed autochorically to detect early signs of stress in plants.Tiny devices placed in the soil or on plants constantly measure moisture, nutrient levels and temperature. This means farmers know exactly when it water the crops, how much fertilizer is needed and when to harvest with precision," he explained.

Thawarchand Gehlot, Governor of Karnataka and Chancellor of the university said, "Currently we are facing challenges like global warming, water crisis, soil degradation, overuse of pesticides and financial distress of farmers. In such a situation, the role of agriculture graduates, agricultural scientists, innovators and policy makers is more important. India is at the forefront in adopting technological innovations in the agricultural sector. There is a need to promote new options to meet the current demand for agricultural production. More work is needed in vertical farming technology to produce more yield in less land."

N. Cheluvarayaswamy, Minister of Agriculture, and Pro-Chancellor of the university said that the State government has emphasised integrated farming, food parks, AI-based digital farming, redelineation of agro-climatic zones in the recent state budget.

"Subsidy of 90% for micro-irregation, utilization of agricultural wastes for soil health enhancement, utilization of geo-spatial technologies for agriculture is also in priority this year," he added.

'BIAL working closely to ensure continuity, operational stability'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the wake of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) revoking the security clearance for Turkish ground handling service provider Çelebi with immediate effect on the ground of national security, Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has said that it is working closely with existing ground handling service providers to ensure continuity and operational stability.

"In compliance with the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security directive to revoke the security clearance of Çelebi Airport Services India Pvt. Ltd., the BIAL is working closely with existing ground handling service providers to ensure continuity and operational stability. The BIAL is actively coordinating the transition to maintain seamless airport operations. The airport assures passengers, airlines, and cargo stakeholders that all necessary measures are being taken to uphold service and operational efficiency during this period," said a BIAL spokesperson.

A file photo of Kempegowda International Airport

'Procedural lapses' alleged in relocation project in Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Concerns have been raised on the 'procedural lapses' in the 'voluntary' relocation of 57 families from Talewadi village in the Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary (BWS), even as the Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre is slated to distribute cheques to the applicants, on Saturday.

BWS in Belagavi district abuts the Kali Tiger Reserve and is surrounded by Mahaveer Wildlife Sanctuary as well as Mahadai Wildlife Sanctuary of Goa, and it is recognised as an important tiger corridor.

Though the relocation is stated to be voluntary, Raghavendra, an RTI activist from Dharwad, has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, highlighting "procedural lapses" in complying with the law.

A file photo of Bhimgad Wildlife Sanctuary in Belagavi district.

Claiming that consent was not obtained from the gram sabha, the activist said that it was in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, the Forest Rights Act, 2006, and the guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

Though the Forest Department did hold a gram sabha meeting to obtain its consent in the first week of May, other activists said the gram sabha meeting should precede project approval by the district-level committee (DLC). "It cannot be a post-approval exercise to show compliance with the law," according to the activists.

It was also pointed out that the gram panchayat Nersa had issued NoC to the villagers instead of conducting the gram sabha, which, according to the activists, amounted to flouting the law.

"Although the NTCA guidelines mandate that the free and informed consent of the gram sabha is mandatory prior to placing the relocation proposals before the district-level committee, it was approved without any consent, and even funds were released. The gram sabha meeting cannot be held after the DLC approval and would be challenged legally in the appropriate forum," said the activists.

Meanwhile, a release from Eshwar Khandre stated that villagers have voluntarily agreed to relocate as they were living under constant fear of wild animals.

He said each family will receive a cheque of ₹10 lakh in the first phase of distribution on May 17, and once these families vacate the forests, the remaining ₹5 lakh will be disbursed, subject to verification and confirmation by the Forest Department.

The Minister said that he had personally visited the area during the Assembly session held in Belagavi in December and had interacted with the forest dwellers. They are deprived of basic amenities like roads, water, and electricity and hence the voluntary relocation exercise was being carried out. Relocation of a few other villages will also be taken up in case the locals volunteer for it, he added.

From Page One

No hike in fee for medical courses

With this, the fees for government quota seats in private medical colleges will remain ₹1,40,621, and for private quota seat in private colleges it will be ₹11,88,167.

In government medical colleges, the fee will be ₹50,000 per annum.

There was no fee hike for medical courses since 2021-22 because of COVID-19, but during 2018-19, fee was increased by 26% and in 2019-20 and 2020-21, it was raised by 15% for both years.

Two taluk treasury staff arrested for bribery

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Lokyukta police on Wednesday arrested chief accountant Bhaskar and first division assistant B.N. Basave Gowda from the Bantwal Taluk Treasury for alleged acceptance of ₹5,000 as bribe. The complainant said she approached Bhaskar twice for the release of death gratuity related to her husband, who worked as secretary in a gram panchayat in Bantwal taluk. For having credited the gratuity amount to her account, Bhaskar and Basave Gowda demanded ₹5,000 each. The Lokayukta police trapped the two.

Wild mango enters vacuum-fried food biz

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

Wild mango has now made it to the vacuum-fried food industry.

Gokul Fruits Pvt. Ltd, a food processing unit located at Ulloor 74 village in the Kundapur taluk of Udupi district, has begun making vacuum-fried chips of two wild varieties of mangoes, in a value addition to the fruit.

The Director of the company, Rohith Kodgi, told *The Hindu* that two wild varieties of mango, which are locally called Malbar and Bhatkal, were used to make the chips.

"Its production is highly labour-intensive as there is no machine available for peeling mangos and it has to be done manually," Mr. Kodgi said.

Referring to the yield of chips, he said it is only 10%. This means that 10 kilograms of chips can be produced from 100 kg of mangoes.Mr. Kodgi said that the company recently released the product into the market in Bengaluru and Goa. He added that the Malbar and Bhatkal varieties are available for production for only about two months–from the third week of April to the first week of June. The chips can be stored and used in cold conditions for up to six months.

Workers peeling the mangoes to make vacuum-fired chips (right) at a unit in Kundapur taluk of Udupi district. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Director said that the raw mango varieties used by the industry for making chips were otherwise being used for table purposes. Some traders sell them in the Mumbai market. "Since we began purchasing the mangoes from them this year, the farmers are getting additional income," Mr. Kodgi said. "The two varieties [Malbar and Bhatkal] are free from worms. It is an added advantage for making the chips."

Nutrient contents

Referring to the nutrient contents of chips (per 100 grams), he said that it has 54.64 grams of carbohydrates, 40.3 grams of total fat, 5.6 grams of crude fibre, 1.38 grams of total protein and 586.35 (kcal) energy.

He said that some hybrid varieties of mango can be used for making vacuum-fried chips. Since those mangos are costly, their production cost will also be higher.

Gokul Fruits Pvt. Ltd. began making vacuum-fired chips of jackfruit in 2006. "Now we make between 8,000 kg and 10,000 kg of jackfruit chips per season," Mr. Kodgi said.

Study: Antioxidant-rich diet lowers risk of respiratory infection and anaemia associated with air pollution in children

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A new study has highlighted the importance of an antioxidant-rich balanced diet for neutralising adverse health effects of air pollution exposure to some extent in Indian children under five. The study was published in Frontiers in Public Health on May 9.

Exposure to air pollution (particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less -PM2.5) can result in acute respiratory illness (ARI) and anaemia in children. A team of researchers from St John's Medical College, Bengaluru, IIT Delhi and Sitaram Bhartia Institute of Science and Research, New Delhi, investigated if antioxidant nutrient intakes could mitigate the impact of PM2.5 on child health outcomes in India.

The researchers studied 2,08,782 children with valid ARI and 1,97,289 children with valid haemoglobin measurements. The prevalence of ARI and anaemia were 2.8% and 57.6% respectively. Acute respiratory infections and anaemia are major contributors to childhood morbidity and mortality globally. Children are highly susceptible to these conditions due to their developing immune systems and higher metabolic needs.

Anura Kurpad, professor of Physiology and Nutrition at St. John's Medical College, said emerging evidence highlights ambient and household air pollution, particularly fine particulate matter, as a critical environmental risk factor for both ARI and anaemia in children. "According to the 2023 World Health Statistics, ARI stands as the leading cause of childhood mortality among all infectious diseases. Exposure to PM2.5 has also been shown to increase the risk of anaemia among children," said Prof. Kurpad, who is one of the authors.

The researchers triangulated satellite-derived PM2.5 exposure data at the primary sampling unit level, with ARI and anaemia prevalence data from national district-level survey, and antioxidant nutrient intakes from household food expenditure survey. Logistic mixed effects regression model was used to estimate the effect of PM2.5 at different levels of nutrient intake.

The study found that higher intake of certain antioxidant nutrients such as vitamins A, C, and D, as well as minerals like zinc and selenium lowered the risk of ARI associated with high PM 2.5 exposure. Higher intakes of these nutrients could similarly lower the risk of anaemia.

"When translating these nutrients to foods, similar benefits were observed with daily consumption of small amounts of fruits and vegetables. This highlights the potential of increasing dietary diversity with more fruit and vegetable intake, in reducing the adversity of air pollution exposure in children," said Prof, Kurpad.

Qualitative evidence

The researchers concluded that the findings from this study should be treated as qualitative evidence of potential moderation of the air pollution and health association by antioxidants and antioxidant rich food groups.

Beyond reach?: Film theatres are facing their biggest test today. Factors such as the advent of streaming platforms and high-priced tickets have changed the viewing habits of the average movie-goer. FILE PHOTO

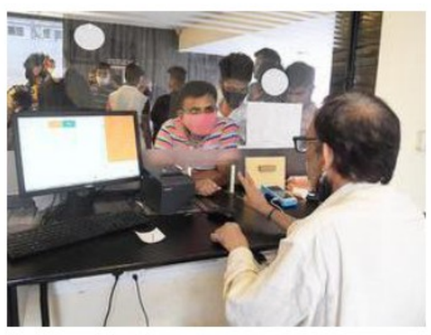
The big cost of watching a film on the large screen in Bengaluru

The city has remained infamous for high-priced movie tickets. The State government's proposal to cap the ticket price at ₹200 came as a ray of hope for film buffs, but a similar move in 2017 had borne no result, writes **Vivek M.V.**

Harish Mallya, an ardent film buff from Bengaluru, concedes that his theatre visits have come down post the COVID-19 pandemic period. An engineer and a curator of world cinema for the Bengaluru International Film Festival (BIFFes), Harish had the habit of watching a film every Friday without fail for decades.

In the current situation, he highlights a development that reflects the falling demand for theatre viewing. "Earlier, I would book my seat in advance, thanks to the mad rush for tickets for marquee movies in the opening weekend. However, in the last couple of years, I have been able to get tickets at the box office of multiplexes even for the highly anticipated films across languages," he says.

There is no denying that theatres are facing their biggest test today. Factors such as the advent of streaming platforms and high-priced tickets have changed the viewing habits of the average movie-goer. In 2024, PVR Inox Ltd. shut down 85 underperforming screens. The following year, the multiplex chain decided to close 70 more properties. Similarly, single screens continue to suffer, with the total count in Karnataka coming down to 500 active screens post pandemic from 650 earlier.



Bollywood star Aamir Khan delved into the issue at the recently held World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) in Mumbai. Aamir, one of the canniest box-office minds, suffered a failure with his previous film *Laal Singh Chaddha* (2022). As he awaits his next, *Sitaare Zameen Par*, the actor sounded alarmed about the prospect of theatrical releases in the coming days.

"For the size of the country and the number of people living here, we have few theatres. I think we have 10,000 screens. Only 2% of the nation's population watches movies in theatres. In the U.S., which has one-third of India's population, there are 40,000 screens. China is ahead with 90,000 screens. There are districts and vast areas in India which don't have single-screen theatres. Whatever issues we have faced over the decades are about having more screens. According to me, this is what we should be investing in," Aamir said at the event.

Karnataka government proposes a cap

Movie-watching, especially in multiplexes, is a costly experience. Bengaluru has remained infamous for the high-priced tickets. In this context, the State government's proposal to cap the film ticket price at ₹200 came as a ray of hope for film buffs. The March 7, 2025, announcement reminded people of a similar call from Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in his previous term, in 2017. The Multiplex Association of India (MAI) appealed against the government's decision in court and brought a stay on the order at the time.

> The exorbitant rates do not matter to people who watch films occasionally ... The regular cine-goer feels he is getting ripped off by the theatres. It's a daylight robbery of film buffs.
>
> **M.R. RAJARAM,** vice-president, Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation

The government seems to have kept the issue in "suspended animation", says author and film critic S. Shyam Prasad. "The Chief Minister has aligned with the public sentiment, but I don't think market forces will allow him to implement the price cap. He has just made a populist statement," he says.

Incidentally, just two months after proposing the price cap in 2017, Siddaramaiah spent ₹1,050 to watch *Baahubali 2: The Conclusion* at a multiplex.

An executive from a popular multiplex chain, on condition of anonymity, reveals that tickets for big films range from ₹700-₹800 in the opening weekend. The price may go up to ₹1,500 in premium screens such as Gold Class or Insignia. Bengaluru multiplexes had grabbed the eyeballs for exorbitant rates for big-star films such as *KGF: Chapter 2* (maximum rate of ₹2,500), *RRR* (₹2,000), and *Ponniyin Selvan* (₹1,200).

Dynamic ticket pricing

The makers of such magnum opuses vouch for the special pricing of tickets as seen in the case of *Pushpa 2: The Rule*. In December 2024, actor Allu Arjun thanked the Andhra Pradesh government for approving the ticket price hike and called it a "progressive decision". The Andhra Pradesh government permitted theatre owners to revise ticket rates for the first 10 days for other films, such as S.S. Rajamouli's *RRR* (2022) and the Ram Charan-S. Shankar film *Game Changer* (2025).

"Producers want to recover the money in four days or so. The opening figures matter a lot to them. They want to earn ₹100 crore to ₹150 crore on the first day. Nobody is interested in running a movie for the long term," Gautam Dutta, CEO, revenue and Operations, PVR INOX, had said during the release of *Pushpa 2: The Rule*.

While Tamil Nadu and Kerala have fixed ticket rates not exceeding ₹200, the Andhra Pradesh government has catered to the requests of makers of big-budget films to alter the ticket prices in the first week. This move could be problematic, as not all big films elicit positive reactions. The interest in a movie might fizzle out due to poor buzz, as family audiences might hesitate to come to cinemas unless the movie is worth experiencing on the big screen.

In such cases, producers and distributors suffer losses, says M.R. Rajaram, vice-president, Karnataka Film Exhibitors Federation. "Multiplexes, which deal in the percentage sharing system with the makers, are the biggest gainers from the price hike of tickets. They play a strong role in altering the costs," he says, adding that single screens do not raise the ticket fare by more than ₹100 for A-lister films.

Kannada filmmaker Karthik Gowda, founder of the production house KRG Studios, has been pushing for dynamic ticket pricing for the last two years. "A film will open with a specific price, and if it gets a good response, the ticket price will increase. We at KRG Studios are discussing this with the exhibitors," Karthik had proposed in 2023. Yogi G. Raj, co-founder of KRG Studios, says it is the way forward. "We distributed *Daredevil Musthafa*, a content-oriented Kannada film from newcomers. We charged just ₹1 for the premiere. Those who came to the show loved the film and spread the word. You should treat each film differently and increase the price based on people's response," he says.

To please a price-sensitive audience, the Multiplex Association of India organises National Cinema Day frequently. On that day, tickets are priced at ₹99 for all shows. PVR INOX has also introduced a movie pass called PVR Passport, with which you can watch four films a month for ₹349.

The OTT challenge

Despite these changes, many people continue to watch their favourite films in the comfort of their homes as they find OTT subscriptions affordable. Amazon Prime Video offers an annual subscription at ₹1,499, while Netflix provides a monthly subscription at ₹649 with an option to share the account with four people. JioHotstar offers an ad-free annual subscription at ₹1,499. The amount is much lower for mobile subscriptions across platforms.

A file photo of a multiplex in Bengaluru. Apart from the ticket rates, the steep prices of popcorn and other food and beverages at multiplexes have often angered the public.

Expensive refreshments

Apart from the ticket rates, the steep prices of popcorn and other food and beverages at multiplexes have often angered the public. "Multiplexes are selling social status instead of promoting cinema," says Rajaram. A regular-sized popcorn tub costs ₹350 to ₹400, while the maximum price is around ₹600 at a multiplex.

PVR Inox Ltd. continues to face the heat from audiences over the pricing of refreshments. Journalist Tridip K. Mandal posted on X (formerly Twitter) explaining why people prefer OTT platforms over theatres. "₹460 for 55 gm of cheese popcorn, ₹360 for 600 ml of Pepsi. Total ₹820 at PVR Cinemas, Noida. The expenditure is equal to the annual subscription of OTT platforms. No wonder people don't go to the cinemas anymore. Movie watching with family has just become unaffordable," he wrote.

His post went viral on social media in 2023, forcing PVR Inox to introduce the 'Bestsellar@99' offer, through which people can buy refreshments at ₹99 from Monday to Thursday for shows till 6 p.m. However, the offer comes with restrictions that vary from city to city.

On the opening weekend of a big film, a family of four might spend ₹3,000 to ₹4,000 at a multiplex, including for snacks. In 2023, the Supreme Court ruled that "multiplexes are private properties, and the owners can set the terms and conditions for entry", leading to a ban on people carrying food to theatres. "Consumers are a small fish against big sharks like the multiplexes. The MAI makes crores annually. It's impossible to go against it in court," notes Shyam.

"Many from the State government and MLAs are stakeholders in multiplex properties. If the revenue from multiplexes comes down, it will affect them. So, I doubt the ticket price-capping proposal will get official in Karnataka," says Rajaram.

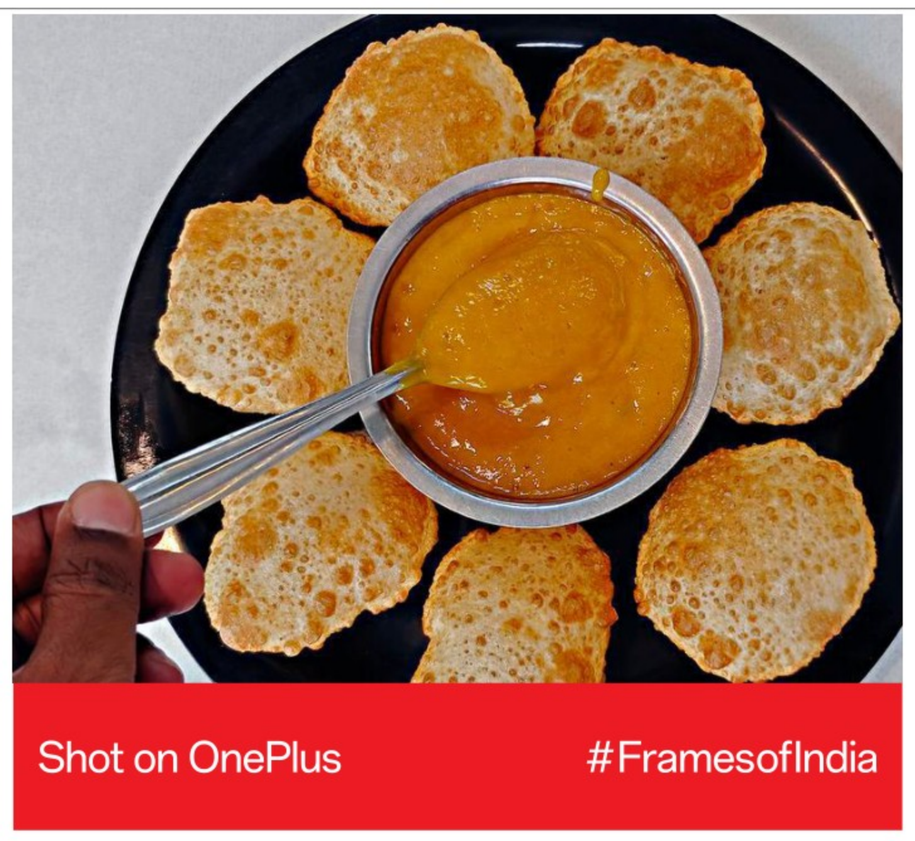
Recently, Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar reopened the debate by speaking about people staying away from theatres. "Since a movie outing costs as much as ₹10,000, families do not spend that much on films, reducing their trips to the theatre," he said at an interaction.

In a public statement, MAI president Kamal Gianchandani countered Karan's observations. "In 2023, the average ticket price (ATP) across all cinemas in India was ₹130. The country's largest cinema chain, PVR INOX, reported an ATP of ₹258 for the fiscal year 2023-24. Additionally, the average spend per head on F&B at PVR INOX during this period stood at ₹132. So, the total average expenditure for a family of four adds up to ₹1,560, significantly different from the ₹10,000 figure carried in the media reports."

He added that a film's fate depends on "content and appeal" rather than pricing. "Any evaluation of pricing in the cinema industry must account for the broader economics of the movie business, which involves multiple stakeholders, including producers, distributors, and exhibitors. Each of these players contributes to the final cost to consumers, with prices ultimately shaped by the market forces of demand and supply. If lowering prices could optimise revenue for everyone involved, cinema operators would naturally make those adjustments without needing to be told," his statement read.

The exorbitant rates do not matter to people who watch films occasionally, says Rajaram. "For them, it's just an outing, and they will be willing to spend. The regular cine-goer feels he is getting ripped off by the theatres. It's a daylight robbery of film buffs," he says.

Ripe, mellow, sunshine yellow The versatile king of fruits lends itself to a range of Indian and Asian dishes this summer. MURALI KUMAR K



Mangoes for every menu

From a pop-up focussed on raw mango and sit-down meals to sushi and bar snacks, chefs in Bengaluru are using the fruit in new ways

Nidhi Adlakha
nidhi.adlakha@thehindu.co.in

The king of fruits is finally here and is lining local markets, larders, and restaurant menus alike. For those looking at eating seasonal, now is the time to indulge in all varieties and forms of mango. Be it in a curry or cheesecake, a soup or sushi, chefs in Bengaluru are crafting menus to celebrate the fruit in all its glory.

Chef Taiyaba Ali, former headchef and curator at the erstwhile Awadhi restaurant Khanposh, recently hosted a pop-up dedicated to the mango at The Conservatory. Titled Aam Baat, the seven-course tasting menu focussed on the beauty of cooking with raw mangoes. The chef, who hails from Malihabad near Lucknow, says the region is popularly known as India's mango capital.

"We get our mangoes only by July and August. While the rest of the country is enjoying the fruit, we cook with the raw variants," says Taiyaba, who crafted dishes including aam paapdi, akhti (tofu dumplings with raw mango), and dal Moradabaadi. Varieties such as the dussehri, alphonso, and mallika are used for desserts, the sidhura for chutneys and in stews (instead of jaggery), she adds.

Raw mango, says Taiyeba, is commonly used as a meat tenderiser in Lucknow. "We cook a lot of red meat and raw mango together," she says. "I want to bring to the fore our style of cooking. There is a generalisation that people in Lucknow eat meat everyday, but that isn't true."

For instance, a vegetable preparation common in Lucknow's Hindu households, she says, is made with potato, okra, *kalonji* (nigella seeds), and raw mango. "I have revisited this dish for the menu's third course. My subz karari kairi wali features crispy layered potatoes, totapuri mango mayonnaise, and okra chips."

On a platter

Another dish that has been adapted to suit local tastes is the mango seekarne with jowar bhakri at Kamat Restaurant's various branches. Akashrai Kamat, COO, Kamat Yatrinivas, says the seekarne is similar to the aamras, but has a savoury twist. "We cook the mangoes in a flavourful broth, and then give it a *tadka*," he says.

"Traditionally, the dish was called mango upkari, but when we started making it, we called it seerkarne."

The restaurant is also serving other delicacies like *aamras*, and amrakhand, and a mango menu at their Malleswaram branch featuring dishes such as mango rasayana, aamchuri chana masala and raw mango sambar.

"We use varieties such as totapuri, alphonso, and sindhura that we source from Ratnagiri and Krishnagiri, and have dedicated teams for each part of the meal," says Raghavendra, who has temporarily discontinued the breakfast menu to focus on the mango meal that is served on a plantain leaf.

Available for lunch and dinner until May 31, the meal comprises dishes such as holige, rasmalai, halbai, chitrana, kadabu and kosambari all using mango.

On what prompted them to curate this menu, Raghavendra says, "I learnt how to make the mango holige, which was popular as did our mango milkshake and halwa. A blogger wanted to shoot these dishes as a platter, and when that went viral, we curated a mango menu that expanded to a full-fledged meal." he explains.

Alphonso in your sushi

Regional favourites aside, chefs are giving the mango a contemporary twist in international cuisines too.

At Fatty Bao, their seasonal menu features mango avocado cream cheese sushi and mango maki, among others.

Tushar Fernandes, local partner at Olive Bar & Kitchen (that runs Monkey Bar, Cantan and Fatty Bao in Bengaluru), says mango is the star of their summer menu.

"Besides our special year-round raw mango salad, we use varieties of ripe mangoes in sushi, salads, compotes, desserts, and sangrias. Currently, we work with small farms around Bengaluru, and mainly use the alphonso and badami varieties."

At Monkey Bar, the highlights of a mango festival that kicked off in May include a mango chicken salad and tandoor paneer with a spicy mango mix.

Brand Chef Ashley DSouza says, "The recipes are centred around Asian flavours, and Indian classics. For example, I am using raw mango in a house-made curry with coastal tones, and also using mango as a bar snack much like you'd find at a local toddy shop."

STEPOUT

Setting the tone

The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli presents Wild West Fridays, their weekly dose of country-laced charm to enjoy with their small plates and wide range of cocktails. This Friday, the evening will feature FINGERCHIPS whose style ranges from jazz and country to classic rock and reggae.

On May 16, 8pm onwards at The Drawing Room by Smoke House Deli, Indiranagar. Call 9152010478.

Acting up

Punaha Theatre will present *Yogi Mattu Bhogi,* an adaptation of the Sanskrit farce *Bhagavadajjukam*. A collaboration between Punaha Theatre and Sahitya Akademi awardee Mahesh Dattani, a well-known theatre director, this free adaptation by Mahesh was translated to Kannada by Vishwajith Madhavamurthy.

The play will be staged on May 17, 3pm and 7pm at KEA Prabhath Rangamandira, Basveshwaranagar. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Welcome turbulence

Indiranagar SOCIAL presents Turbulence V7, which will feature Innerworld (Goan DJ/producer Akshay Mathker). Presented by Oddvision x ELVT, the artist is known for his releases like Qilla, Mana Abundance, Tech Lab, and Aneelhi Records. Innerworld has also performed at the Wonderfruit Festival.

At Indiranagar SOCIAL, from 7pm omwards. Call 8657896572/73 for details.

A day at the museum

This weekend MAP promises engaging ways to connect people through art, history, and shared experience

This Sunday, May 18, is International Museum Day, and to mark the occasion, the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru is throwing open its doors for a day packed with art, creativity, and connection.

Kicking off the celebrations is 'Sketch with PencilJam', a community-led sketching session from 10am to 1pm on the ground floor. Open to all ages and skill levels, the event invites art lovers to bring their pencils and sketchbooks, explore the museum, and draw inspiration from its spaces and collections.

No longer a musty, dusty affair Fun-filled, interactive events await visitors to MAP this weekend. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Penciljam, a collective that has been promoting drawing as a citizen art form since 2009, has organised over a thousand such events.

If sketching is not your thing, there is plenty more to discover. At the 'Ticket Tika Chaap' exhibition, running from 10.30am to 6pm in the Citi Gallery, visitors can dive into the world of 19th and 20th-century Indo-British textile labels, known as tikats or chaaps, through a fun, clue-based game. These ornate labels were once powerful tools of branding in colonial trade, and the exhibition encourages you to decode the layered stories within their designs.

Language becomes the focus at 3pm with an Indian Sign Language (ISL) session for beginners, led by MAP's Hardeep Singh and Madhur Arora. The workshop, held in the Mazumdar-Shaw Auditorium, is a chance to learn ISL vocabulary related to art and museums while fostering better inclusion and accessibility.

Art lovers curious about what happens behind the scenes can attend one of two art conservation lectures in the Conservation Lab (11.30am and 12.30pm). These sessions, led by MAP's conservation team, provide an insight into the science of preserving cultural treasures, from cleaning paintings to restoring fragile sculptures.

At noon, the Axis Bank Gallery will host an Artwork Label-Making Workshop, inviting participants to create descriptive labels for the exhibition 'Vaanyerum Vizhuthugal', which explores themes of identity, caste, and gender.

Later in the day, visitors can join a guided walk through the museum's Visual Storage at 4pm – an opportunity to see what lies beneath the surface of the museum's public displays.

Wrapping up the day is 'A Symphony of Movement', a performance by SUNADHA, the cultural wing of the Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled. To be held at 5pm, the performance mixes music and expressive movement, showcasing the extraordinary talent of differently-abled artists.

All events are free, though several require prior registration.

For more information, visit map-india.org/map-events.

Think twice Scenes from *Doubt* by Poochu's Productions. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A scathing look within

Chennai-based Poochu's Productions brings *Doubt* to Bengaluru, this weekend

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

Have you ever been beset by uncertainty over what you have always known to be true? *Doubt* written by John Patrick Shanley in 2004, puts human relationships and emotions under an unforgiving microscope, and this weekend, Chennai-based Poochu's Productions brings this play to Bengaluru.

Set in Chicago in 1964, *Doubt* is centred around accusations of an inappropriate relationship between a Catholic priest and a child. Denver Anthony Nicholas, who has directed this adaptation, says the reason this play was chosen was, "the way it allowed the audience to make their own decision."

He adds that *Doubt* does not tell you who is right or wrong, "it just leaves you in the grey area of assumptions and accusations." "What makes *Doubt* different is that it not only brings about the awareness of an issue, but also an awareness of the people involved."

Denver elaborates how the mother of the child in the play ponders if the priest is at fault or "if it was in her son's nature". It is an interesting, insightful take on human behaviour and perception, says the director.

Though there are layers to the script crafted around the Civil Rights Era, Denver says it is the mother's observation that cemented the choice of play for him and lead actor Karthik TM.

The duo, who pored over scores of scripts, decided against an Indian adaptation or contextualisation of *Doubt* when they finally settled on it.

With *Doubt* set in a certain time period, other iterations of this play have seen adaptations of Indian characters to fit the narrative. "This was something I didn't want to do because I believe 99 out of 100 theatre-goers are sensible people who will understand the setting in which the script was penned," says Denver.

And even though *Doubt* is positioned in the context of a Catholic setup, the questions it throws up are applicable to any human circumstance and situation. "It makes you doubt everything about human relationships," he adds.

'Doubt requires more courage than conviction does, and more energy; because conviction is a resting place and doubt is infinite,' reads the preface to *Doubt* by playwright John Patrick Shanley and sets the tone for the play which runs for 90 minutes.

The play is tightly knit with performances by Deepa Nambiar as Sister Aloysius, Father Flynn played by TM Karthik, Abinaya Ravindranathan as Sister James and Dakshana Rajaram as Mrs Muller.

Doubt by Poochu's Productions will be staged at Ranga Shankara on May 18 at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Open to those aged 16 and above. Tickets on BookMyShow.

‘Commission may seek change of names of SCs used as cuss words’

Names of many of the 186 Scheduled Castes and sub-castes were given by the ‘upper’ castes, says Nagamohan Das

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, which is overseeing a survey of Scheduled Caste (SC) population in Karnataka to draw up internal reservation from the 17% reservation matrix, is also exploring the possibility of recommending change in names of certain communities that are used as cuss words.

Some names like Holeya, Ghantichor, and Halalkor have historically been used as cuss word by “upper” castes in Karnataka, or used to impart a negative connotation. The enumerators, commission sources said, have also observed hesitancy among people belonging to these castes to declare their identity openly.

“We have changed the names of individuals, countries, cities, and roads. In the past, castes have changed their names too. For example, Komati is now called Arya Vaishya. If this is possible, why not for others?” Mr. Das told *The Hindu*. He pointed out that of the 186 SC caste and sub-caste names, many were given by the “upper” castes.

The survey, which started on May 5, is part of the exercise to enumerate the SCs in Karnataka before arriving at a decision on earmarking reservation benefits to Dalit ‘right’ (Holeya), Dalit ‘left’ (Madiga), and touchable castes such as Lambani, Bhovi, Korama, Korcha, and Beda Jangama.

For decades, Dalit ‘left’ factions have accused the ‘right’ factions of enjoying the lion’s share in the reservation benefits in public education and employment.

A file photo of an enumerator collecting details on a hand-held device to record the empirical data on sub-caste demographics as part of the Statewide survey of Scheduled Castes, in Anekal taluk of Bengaluru.

> We have changed the names of individuals, countries, cities, and roads. In the past, castes have changed their names too. For example, Komati is now called Arya Vaishya. If this is possible, why not for others?
>
> **H.N. NAGAMOHAN DAS,** retired judge of Karnataka High Court

On the number of castes, which have been identified to be used in derogatory sense, Mr. Das said, “The commission is in the process of studying and identifying this. Use of caste names for abuse is unacceptable in a civilised society, in the 21st century.” The commission is examining provisions in law and the Constitution, courts’ observations and directions on the issue, and precedents. “We have to explore consequences and ripple effect,” the retired judge said.

D. Chandrashekaraiah of Chalavadi Mahasabha, which represents the Dalit ‘right’, agreed with the commission’s assessment of caste identity being used as cuss word.

“We also want some names changed. However, the problem is that people do not identify themselves as Chalavadis in 10 Old Mysore district. By the time the general Census commences in 2026, we are hopeful of arriving at a consensus, and we will also seek a code for Chalavadi. Awareness has to be created among people to avoid confusion,” he said.

Enumerators report hesitancy in urban areas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Enumerators have reported back to the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission about hesitancy among the Scheduled Caste people in urban areas in acknowledging their caste.

“We have received oral communication from enumerators about such issues,” said Mr. Das.

A source in the commission said it has been noted that many families, which did not want to participate in the survey due to fear of neighbours identifying them as SCs, had told enumerators that they would fill up details online, a provision that was given to those travelling, migrating, and to those reluctant to participate in physical enumeration.

“Typically, physical enumeration is taking about 45 minutes for 42 questions. We have come across people fearing stigma, and informing the enumerators that they would do it online, or through booth-level registration,” a source in the commission said.

After the end of door-to-door survey on May 17, booth-level camps will be set up between May 19 and 21 to register those who have missed the door-to-door survey. Online survey would be open between May 19 and 23, for which Aadhaar number is compulsory.

Appeal by people of Mansa community

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the survey to count the population of the Scheduled Castes in Karnataka for the purpose of internal reservation is under way, the Mansa community, which is an “untouchable” caste in coastal and Malnad districts, has urged the government to include their caste in the list of SCs.

The Mansa caste has an independent identity and is spread across Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan and Shivamogga in Karnataka and Kasaragod in Kerala, and the population exceeds five lakh, honourary secretary of Tulunad Mansa Samaja Seva Sangha S. Achyutha said on Thursday.

He said that community leaders have been urging the government over the last 30 years to include the caste in the list of SCs. In view of the caste failing to make it to the SC list, community members are taking certificates as Adi Karnataka or Adi Dravida. “In the current survey, people have been encouraged to give their original caste identity and not as Adi Dravida, Adi Karnataka, or Adi Andhra,” he said.

India-Pakistan tensions: Ashok wants Congress to make it clear what it wants

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hitting back at the Congress for its criticism of the India-Pakistan ceasefire, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok on Thursday urged the All-India Congress Committee (AICC) to announce if it supported war or peace, as some Congress leaders were themselves split between continuing the conflict and having peace.

Addressing a press conference here, Mr. Ashok said while some Congress leaders initially opposed war and favoured peace, they later called for war.

“Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge welcomed the ceasefire, but others in the Congress have been insisting on continuing the war,” he said and alleged that the Congress had multiple factions, which was evident with leaders issuing contradictory statements despite warnings from senior leader Jairam Ramesh.

He urged the AICC to clearly state its stance on whether it wanted war, peace, or negotiations before discussing other issues like holding a special parliamentary session.

BJP supporters and others taking out a Tiranga Yatra at Malleswaram in Bengaluru on Thursday.

“Indian soldiers are still hunting and eliminating terrorists, and everyone should trust them,” Mr. Ashok remarked.

Alleging that the Congress leaders had desisted from questioning the government of their own allies in Kashmir, he stressed the need to not indulge in politics in crucial times like what the country was facing now.

Taking a dig at the Congress leaders, who have been critical of ceasefire with Pakistan, Mr. Ashok alleged that during the Mumbai terror attack, which killed 175 people, the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government failed to respond. In contrast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had given a fitting reply, he maintained.

Tiranga Yatra

The BJP’s Tiranga yatra that was taken out in Bengaluru on Thursday to express solidarity with the armed forces and also to mark the victory of Operation Sindoor saw people taking part in what was called an “apolitical” procession.

Huge national flag

The march that was taken out from Sirur Playground on Sampige Road to Malleswaram 18th Cross displayed a huge national flag.

Air Marshal A.V. Murali (retd), BJP’s State in charge Radha Mohan Das Agarwal, co-in-charge Sudhakar Reddy and Leaders of the Opposition in both the Houses of State legislature R. Ashok and Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, and former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan were among those present.

Remuneration of guest teaching faculty up

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the announcement in the State Budget, the government has issued an order to increase the remuneration for all guest faculty members working in government schools and pre-university colleges by ₹2,000 a month with immediate effect.

Previously, the government had fixed the remuneration of primary school guest teachers at ₹10,000 and at ₹10,500 for high school guest teachers.

Similarly, guest lecturers in government pre-university colleges will also receive a ₹2,000 hike in their remuneration.

The honorarium for guest lecturers was ₹12,000.

CM: Place recommendations of district and taluk planning bodies in pre-Budget meetings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday told the Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission and the Karnataka State Decentralised Planning and Development Committee to place the recommendations of the taluk- and district-level planning committees in the pre-Budget meetings.

The Chief Minister chaired a meeting of the two bodies and said taluk- and district-level planning committees need to be strengthened to further empower the Panchayat Raj system and to formulate schemes as per the requirements of people.

Elections not held

The District Planning Committees (DCP) and Taluk Planning Committees (TPC) have apparently become ineffective as elections have not been held for zilla and taluk panchayats. Currently, the district in-charge Ministers chair the meeting of these committees.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said he had announced in the State Budget for 2023-24 that responsibility mapping had to be done regarding the functioning of Panchayat Raj organisations as per the 73rd Amendment to the Constitution.

Accordingly, the Rural Development Department has prepared a responsibility map for 13 departments, out of which the responsibility maps for the functioning of nine departments, including Health, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Welfare, Backward Classes and Minority Welfare, Agriculture, Watershed Development, Horticulture, and Sericulture have been notified. However, responsibility mapping of Women and Child Welfare, Education, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries departments was not notified so far, he said.

By August 15

The Chief Minister directed officials to complete the responsibility mapping of all departments by this August 15. He instructed the officials to submit a proposal to the government regarding the Revenue and Panchayat Raj departments’ decisions on re-surveying villages and fixing boundaries. He also instructed the officials to submit proposals for establishing a land bank to develop infrastructure for urban and rural local bodies.

Soban Singh Jeena Government Institute of Medical Science & Research Almora
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पत्रांक सं.685/जी.एम.सी.ए./जी–1/विज्ञापन/224–25 दिनांक: 14 मई 2025

‘साक्षात्कार–निरस्तीकरण सूचना’

सोबन सिंह जीना राजकीय आयुर्विज्ञान एवं शोध संस्थान, अल्मोड़ा में संकाय सदस्यों **(प्रोफेसर, एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर एवं असिस्टेन्ट प्रोफेसर)** के रिक्त पदों को संविदा के माध्यम से भरे जाने हेतु **दिनांक 24 अप्रैल 2025** को समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन संख्या **425/GMCA/G-1/Advertisement/2024-25, Date: 23th April, 2025**‘वॉक–इन–इंटरव्यू’ तिथि **दिनांक 17 मई 2025** को प्रस्तावित थी, जिसे अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त किया जाता है। **प्राचार्य,**
सो.सिं.जी.राज आयुर्वि. एवं शो. संस्थान, अल्मोड़ा।

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients have negotiated with **MR. SHAFIK AHAMAD**, Son of Mr. Syed Khaleel Ahamad, residing at Medimallasandra Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District – 560 067. for the purchase of the Immovable Property being the Dry Agricultural land measuring 1 ¼ Gunta in extent, situated in Survey No. 73/38 (Earlier Portion of Sy.No.73/1) of Medimallasandra Village, Anugondanahalli Hobli, Hoskote Taluk, bounded on the East by Private Property, West by Property forming portion of Survey No. 73/1, North by New Road and South by Property forming portion of Survey No. 73/1,

Any person or persons having/asserting any right, title, interest claims or intending to oppose the purchase in any manner may file their objections to the undersigned within **SEVEN DAYS** from the date of publication of notice hereof with documentary proof where after no such claims will be entertained and my clients will proceed with the purchase of the said property.

(SYED TANVEER AHMED), Advocate
No. 14, Wellington Street, Richmond Town,
Bangalore – 560 025

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development
Office of the Executive Engineer M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 05/2025-26, Dated: 09-05-2025

On behalf of the Governer of Karnataka, the Executive Engineer, M.I. & GWD Division, Mysore invites tenders from registered and eligible contractors under Kppp Portal as per the terms and conditions prescribed in standard tender documents of KW4 for 2 works, minimam tender amount Rs 150 lakhs, maxmium tender amount Rs 200.00 Lakhs and EMD amount minimum Rs 2:25 lakhs and maximum amount Rs 3.00 lakhs. The other tender details are given below.

Any information regarding this tender may be obtained from this: office during office hours up to : **Date: 17.05.2025 - 5-30 PM**

Last date to upload the tenders with the prescribed E.M.D and requisite: documents through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in : **Date: 19.05.2025 - 5-30 PM**

The bids will be opened : **Date: 21.05.2025 -11-00 AM**

Note: All the rights are reserved for postponement or cancellation of all bids or any individual bids of this tender notification without assigning any reasons by the under signed. The terms and conditions for each work is published in the "Kppp" Tender Portal. Any corrigendum pertains to above tender will be published in e-Procurement Portal only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer.
MI & GWD Division, Mysore.

DIPR/DDMYS/170/KSMCA/143/2025-26

BEFORE THE HON'BLE XI ADDL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, [IIIrd Floor, BSNL Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560001)
Comm. O.S. No. 134/2024

BETWEEN: HIPPOSTORES TECHNOLOGY PVT LTD , HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT: 7F-7H, 7TH FLOOR, HANSALAYA BUILDING, 15, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110001 ....PLAINTIFF
AND:SURYA CONCRETE PRODUCTS & ORS. .....DEFENDANTS

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANTS U/O. V RULE 20 CPC

To, Defendant No.1
M/S SURYA CONCRETE PRODUCTS
SY NO. 34/1, SULIKUNTE VILLAGE, KODATHI GRAM PANCHAYATH, CERMELRAM POST, HOSKUR ROAD, VARTHUR HOBLI, BANGALORE-562125
Defendant No.2
MR. ROHITH B.E., MANAGING PARTNER, M/S SURYA CONCRETE PRODUCTS
SY NO. 34/1, SULIKUNTE VILLAGE, KODATHI GRAM PANCHAYATH, CERMELRAM POST, HOSKUR ROAD, VARTHUR HOBLI, BANGALORE-562125
Proposed Defendant
MR. N. RAJASHEKAR, PARTNER, M/S SURYA CONCRETE PRODUCTS
#22, 1ST CROSS, WEAVERS BUILDING, BEHIND COUNTRY CLUB, BYRAPPA LAYOUT, BANNERAGHATTA ROAD, BANGALORE-560083

Whereas the Plaintiff, above named has instituted original suit against you seeking judgment and decree in favour of the Plaintiff, directing the Defendant to pay a sum of **INR 32,10,301/- (Indian National Rupees Thirty-Two Lakhs Ten Thousand Three Hundred One Only)** along with other reliefs.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on **05 June 2025 at 11 AM.** to answer the same, failing which the application will be heard and disposed of ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on this the **17th day of April 2025.**

By Order of Court, Sheristedar XAddL District & Sessions Court Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Nikhil Joy,
P&A Law Offices, We Work Galaxy,
43. Residency Road, Bangalore-560025.

Ambedkar portrait desecrated

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Tension brewed in Hallare village in Nanjangud taluk after it was discovered that unidentified miscreants had desecrated a portrait of B.R. Ambedkar by smearing it with mud.

The incident came to light on Thursday morning, and it is suspected that the incident took place on Wednesday night when there was a power outage in the village.

Local Dalit activists expressed their ire over the desecration and urged the police to nab the culprits. The police said CCTV cameras were not functioning due to a power outage.

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार
सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग
(क्रियेटिव/पी0आर0)

संख्याः-120/सू.एवंज.सं.वि. (क्रि/पी0आर0)-01/2025
लखनऊः: दिनांक 15 मई, 2025

जेम बिड की सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार की जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं, विकास कार्यक्रमों, नीतियों एवं उपलब्धियों के प्रचार-प्रसार से संबंधित सोशल मीडिया कार्य हेतु एजेंसी के चयन से संबंधित जेम बिड सं0-GEM/2025/B/6226907 जेम पोर्टल पर दिनांक 13.05.2025 को अपलोड करायी गयी है। इच्छुक निविदादाता/एजेंसी द्वारा बिड में दिनांक 02.06.2025 अपराह्न 12:00 बजे तक प्रतिभाग किया जा सकता है। जेम बिड दिनांक 02.06.2025 को अपराह्न 12:30 बजे समिति के समक्ष निविदादाताओं की उपस्थिति/अनुपस्थिति में खोली जायेगी।

विस्तृत विवरण जेम पोर्टल https://gem.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है।

(विशाल सिंह)
सूचना निदेशक

RO. No.:233780 Dt:15/05/2025 www.up.gov.in

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/SEE (Procurement)/EE/AEE/2025-26/ 9124-9129 Date:15.05.2025

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Supply of below mentioned safety materials as per GESCOM Specifications: **PC-1403 (Call-2) :** Safety Helmet attached with electronic induction tester (Tender Amount: **64.94 Lakhs), PC-1398(Call-2):-** Rubber Hand Gloves(Tender Amount: **41.55 Lakhs)**
Dates: Bid documents available at KPPP Portal: on or after **17.05.2025**. Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., Procurement, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 94484 99997. Web Site Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at +91-8046010000/8068948777 or e-mail address:support@eprochelpdesk.com

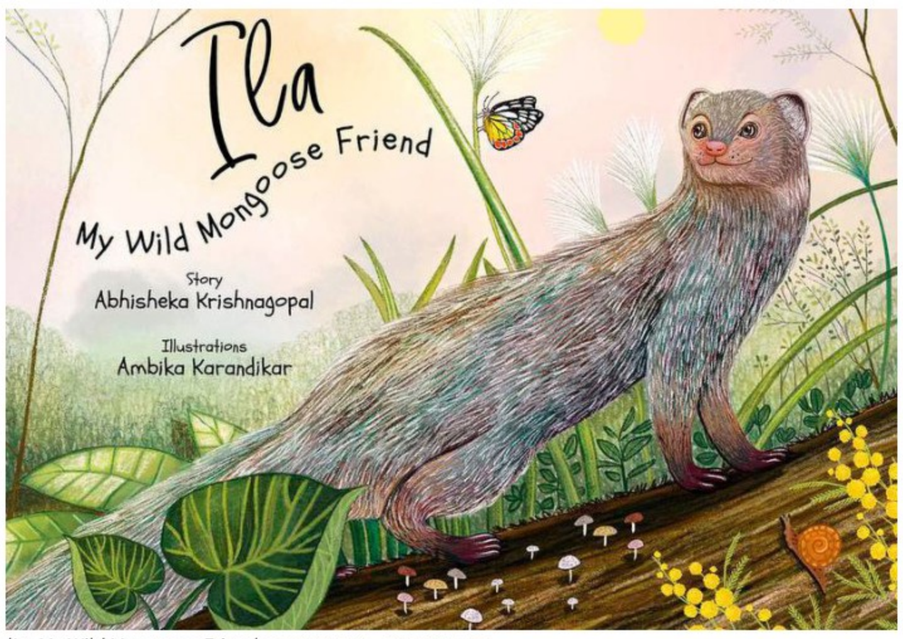
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Procurement), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/115/KSMC&A/2025-26

‘Even Bengaluru can hold a lot of wildlife’

Ila: My Wild Mongoose Friend by Abhisheka Krishnagopal recounts his time spent volunteering at the People for Animals wildlife rehabilitation centre

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU



Ila: My Wild Mongoose Friend cover. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Abhisheka Krishnagopal still thinks about Ila, the Indian grey mongoose who used to sleep on her bed, forelimbs around Abhisheka’s neck. “She would wake up early in the morning and start calling me to play with her,” recalls the Bengaluru-based artist, ecologist, and educator, who has recently released a book about this unique relationship, titled *Ila: My Wild Mongoose Friend*. “I would be sleepy, so she would put her claws inside my nostrils and ears and ensure I got up. That’s why, for me, Ila was very, very special,”

The book, illustrated by Ambika Karandikar and published by Kalpavriksh, a non-profit organisation working on environmental and social issues, recounts Abhisheka’s time spent volunteering at the People for Animals (PFA) wildlife rehabilitation centre in the early 2000s, while still in college, where she first met Ila.

She remembers being surprised at the variety of animals she encountered at the rehab centre, including several snakes, star tortoises, a monitor lizard, a flying fox and even a baby jackal, and being more surprised to discover that all of them were rescued from Bengaluru. “I went to the PFA Bangalore office expecting to meet only dogs and cats,” she says. Only later, after she got involved in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation and became more aware of the wildlife in Bengaluru, did she start noticing the sheer diversity of animals in the city. “What is needed is the awareness that even a city can hold wildlife,” she says.

The experience of volunteering at the rehabilitation centre played a crucial role in her career, she says. “I was studying fine arts because I wanted to be an artist.” But, after working in close proximity with wildlife for so long, she realised, by the end of her BFA, that “I didn’t want to be exhibiting in galleries and selling my work,” she says. “I really wanted to do something in conservation, so I switched careers.”

Abhisheka Krishnagopal

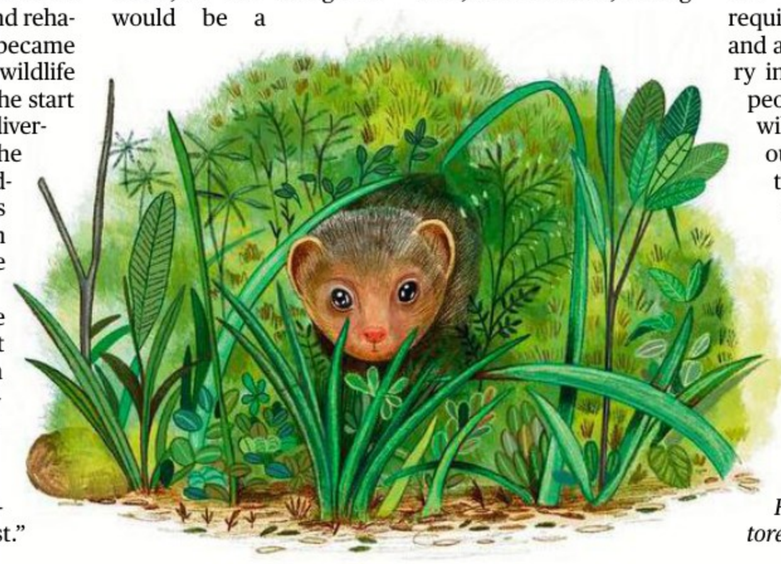
Telling stories

Abhisheka, who is currently part of the Education and Public Engagement team at the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF), has been telling stories about the wild animals she encountered at work to friends for years. “They’ve been telling me to write, but I was somehow not confident.”

Then COVID happened, and she found herself stuck at home, unable to travel, so she thought it would be a good time to write about her encounters with various wild animals. “I wrote about four or five stories and just shared them with my colleagues at NCF,” she recounts, adding that one of these colleagues, who had read them out to his own children, told her that these stories should reach more kids.

So, she began reaching out to publishers. Kalpavriksh, which is known to publish children’s books on nature and wildlife, responded positively, saying that they would be interested in publishing one of her stories, she says. “I submitted three stories, and they chose Ila’s,” says Abhisheka, who believes that stories like this help children forge “an emotional connection and sensitivity towards animals,” she says. “This is much more important...facts can come later.”

However, she also offers a word of caution to readers. “Working with wildlife requires special training and a licence, and this story in no way encourages people to take care of wildlife at home or without permission from the concerned authorities,” she says.

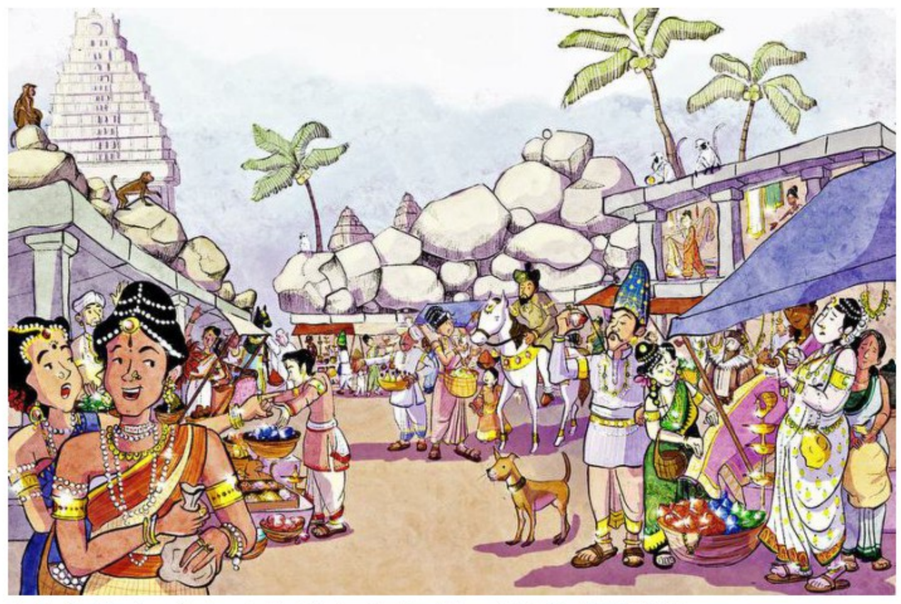


Ila: My Wild Mongoose Friend is available online at Kalpavriksh’s (kalpavriksh.org) online store, Amazon, and a few major bookstores. Signed copies are also available at Funky Rainbow bookstore in Bangalore.

An adventure around the waterways of Hampi

Mala Kumar’s *The Missing Rocks of Hampi* weaves together mystery and history

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU


An illustration from the book, *The Missing Rocks of Hampi.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Like many people, Mala Kumar did not enjoy how history was taught at school, which led to her alienation from the subject for decades. “History was never on my mind, really,” says the Bengaluru-based journalist and writer, who has authored over 40 books for children. It was only later in her life that she came to realise that what we are today is a lot because of what happened in the past, something she hopes that the children who read her latest book, *The Missing Rocks of Hampi,* will appreciate.

Rooted in present

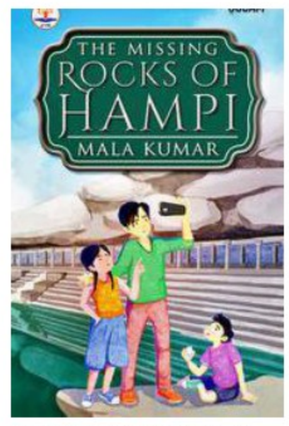
“I thought it would be nice to give children a story, which is historical, but also very much rooted in the present,” she says of the book, a thriller that takes its young reader into the heart of Hampi, with a special focus on the city’s highly sophisticated water management system. Even though Hampi is situated in the arid central region of the Deccan Plateau, it managed its water resources very efficiently, something that even modern cities can learn from, in Mala’s opinion. “I have been reading a lot about water,” she explains, pointing out that Bengaluru often experiences water shortages in summer because of poor management. “That is how the present and the past got linked.”

Mala Kumar chose to make *The Missing Rocks of Hampi* a mystery story because, ‘when I was a child, a mystery was always interesting, whether it was small or big.’ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This is her first foray into fiction for young people, “not counting the picture books, because most of my picture books are mostly slice-of-life depictions,” says Mala. “Even though I keep dreaming up stories, this is the first time I have sat down and challenged myself to write a fictional story.” She chose to make *The Missing Rocks of Hampi* a mystery story because, “when I was a child, a mystery was always interesting, whether it was small or big,” she says. “Also, when I talk to children around me, I get the feeling that mystery is always in fashion.”

Even though it was a work of fiction, Mala wanted to make sure that its history and processes were authentic. So, she reached out to many experts in the field, including Shama Pawar, founder of the Kishkinda Trust, Meera Iyer of INTACH Bengaluru, Vishwanath S. of Biome, who has “been writing for so long about water, water management and about how, if it were managed better, there would be enough water throughout the year,” and the landscape architect Mohan Rao, who helped restore an ancient pushkarini in Hampi in the early 2000s.

According to her, Rao was working on a landscaping project, in and around the monuments in Hampi, when the ASI started desilting and restoring the pushkarini in 2002. The archaeologists were puzzled that the water just could not be drained out completely. “Mohan helped in understanding the beautiful system of carefully prepared ancient ponds that allowed rainwater to be stored in percolation pits,” says Mala, adding that the documents he shared helped the book’s illustrator, Megha Vishwanath.



The Missing Rocks of Hampi cover. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Asking questions

While the book allows children to experience history in a more pleasurable way, she also hopes that it will encourage them to ask questions. “We need to teach young people the art of asking questions and accepting different points of view,” says Mala, whose protagonist, Devyani, is clearly constructed with that goal in mind. “Devyani is the child I see in all the children I meet, who are curious, upfront, brave enough to talk about their feelings, able to see the confusion around them, the good and the bad... children who want to have a better world, but are not very clear about how to make that happen.”

The Missing Rocks of Hampi is available online and in major bookstores.

Free hearing aids to the needy in Bengaluru

Recipients who received the hearing aid. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Samvaad Foundation, in collaboration with ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India), successfully organised a Free Hearing Aid Distribution Ceremony on Thursday at the Samvaad Foundation office premises.

According to the press release, a total of 348 hearing aids were distributed free of cost to beneficiaries across Bangalore and various parts of Karnataka.

The recipients, ranging from children as young as 10 years to senior citizens as old as 80 years, included individuals who had long struggled with hearing loss due to lack of access and affordability.

Speaking on the occasion, Jayaraman, District Adviser for Disease Prevention and Treatment, Rotary International, lauded the initiative, stating, “Access to hearing aids is not a privilege but a basic right. Samvaad Foundation’s work in this domain is life-changing for many families.” Shivakumar highlighted ALIMCO’s commitment to inclusive assistive technology and praised the Foundation’s dedication to social impact.

Bengaluru company unveils cancer atlas mapping genomic diversity to bridge data gap

While most cancer genomic datasets are dominated by Western populations, the GCDA designed by 4baseCare is built on real-world data from India and the global South

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A private firm in Bengaluru unveiled a Global Cancer Diversity Atlas (GCDA) on May 14 with the aim of addressing the genomics data gap in cancer care.

The atlas was launched by Infosys co-founder N. R. Narayan Murthy. The initiative is aimed at addressing a critical gap in global cancer research – the lack of genomic data from diverse populations.

While most cancer genomic datasets are dominated by Western populations, the GCDA designed by 4baseCare, a precision oncology company, is built on real-world data from India and the global South.

While over 70% of cancer patients live in Asia, West Asia and Latin America, less than 10% of current cancer genomic data represents them. GCDA aims to bridge this disparity to ensure all populations are accurately represented in precision oncology.

While over 70% of cancer patients live in Asia, West Asia and Latin America, less than 10% of current cancer genomic data represents them. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Accurate diagnosis

The company claims that GCDA is the most inclusive cancer genomics dataset, transforming how it develops diagnostics, conducts research, and delivers cancer care.

By integrating region-specific genomic insights, GCDA empowers clinicians with tools for more accurate diagnosis and targeted treatments, helping to eliminate misdiagnoses and enhance outcomes for patients worldwide.

Mr. Murthy also launched the company’s genomics lab in Mahadevapura. The lab will offer advanced genomic testing solutions, including comprehensive gene panels, whole exome sequencing and transcriptome analysis.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 16, 1975

Fertilizers for Coconut Crop: Idea Catching Up

Bangalore: Coconut cultivation in Karnataka is expected to enter a new phase with the popularisation of chemical fertilizer application and package of practices. The Fertilizer Corporation of India is now engaged in spreading the message of fertilizers and quite a few coconut cultivators have warmed upto the idea on the strength of results obtained. The FCI Regional Chief Agronomist, Mr. P.G. Muddaiah says the coverage included coffee and mulberry, two other important commercial crops of Karnataka. The recent FCI organised seminar at the Agricultural Sciences University’s Regional Coconut Research Station at Arsikere sought to focus the attention of various coconut interests on the promising possibilities of its cultivation.

PM has not Kept Promises, Says J.P.

Hubli, May 15: The Sarvodaya leader, Mr. J.P. Narayan, said today, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi was left with no further alibis to explain her inaction in tackling basic problems like corruption, growing unemployment and spiralling prices.”

Addressing public meetings at Dharwar and Hubli, Mr. Narayan said that before the split in the Congress, Mrs. Gandhi’s excuse was that the old guards were coming in the way of progress.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

IT hub now in smaller cities of Karnataka

Several entrepreneurs have set up IT, ITES, SAAS and other companies in smaller cities like Belagavi, away from the capital city of Bengaluru. They include young IT engineers who have returned after short stints in USA and Europe. They have set up industries that range from traditional, low technology business houses to hi-tech, new age companies.

Online fraud detection tools used by the govt.

A company in Belagavi makes online fraud detection tools that are being used by government agencies in Africa. An online vigilance company has pre-empted frauds in over 50,000 websites.
Another makes EV bikes that have become a rage among youth. A young man's venture mass produces mega 3D printing machines.

Low real estate costs for smaller cities

Founders say the benefits of having companies in smaller cities include low real estate costs, skilled local manpower, freedom from traffic woes, quality of life, work-life balance and a pace that is `just right'.
Some swear by the power of networking built over the years by childhood friendships and acquaintances.

Fundings to provide a market for viable ideas

VTU, which has its state-level headquarters in Belagavi, is doing its bit. It has set up the Visvesvaraya Research and Innovation Foundation to turn dynamic students into entrepreneurs.
Over 50 corporates are working with VTU to promote need based research, mentoring and funding and to provide a market for viable ideas.

Much more than just slogans

Industry insiders, however, say the potential is still unexplored. They feel the government needs to do much more than come up with slogans like `Beyond Bengaluru'. They would like to see more dedicated industrial estates, quicker approvals by government bodies, easy access to loans to budding entrepreneurs, increased academia interaction.

Young entrepreneurs of Belagavi take tech beyond Bengaluru

Several entrepreneurs have set up IT and other companies in smaller cities like Belagavi. Their operations are small, but significant. Most of them have international clients

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

A few months ago, law enforcement officers in a north-western African country detected a series of online financial frauds. This led to some arrests and the recovery of money lost by some victims. Interestingly, the hi-tech software tools used by the police in operation were developed by a small IT company based in Belagavi, 600 km away from Bengaluru, the IT capital of India.

In a few weeks, Prosoft, the company that develops such tools, will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. Functioning in a 2-BHK flat, it has a head count of around 30, including management. It is an ISO 9001:2015 certified company that has over 1,000 clients in India and overseas. The tools developed by Prosoft engineers are used by security, vigilance and law enforcement agencies like NIA, CID, ED, ACB, Income Tax and CBI. Their branches utilize Prosoft applications to carry out their investigative analysis and other significant work.

"We are associated with DSCI and regularly participate in cybercrime awareness workshops held across India to educate law enforcement personnel to deal with modern day crime scenarios. Our products and services have helped agencies take swift and insightful decisions by using the power of data analytics," says Mohsin Dalayat, CEO and Technical Director.

Senior IPS B. Dayananda, who has been working with the Prosoft team since he was posted as SP, Belagavi, says that Prosoft's C5 CDR Analyzer has been implemented as a state-wide project in Karnataka. All the district police units and Commissionerate officers have been given a copy of the software to do CDR analysis of their cases pertaining to crime. "The software has been quite successful in solving several important and complicated cases," he says.

Prosoft is not the only success story here. Several entrepreneurs have set up IT and other companies in smaller cities like Belagavi. Their operations are small, but significant. Most of them have international clients.

Sharath Bache Gowda (sixth from right), KEONICS chairman, visiting the office of AnexGATE IT company in Belagavi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

On cyber security

Another agency in Belagavi is Shreshta IT, a cyber security, threat intelligence company that offers vigilance products and services.

The company specialises in threat intelligence and DNS security, and offers cutting-edge products like DNS Shield, DNS Watchtower, and TLD ThreatPulse, which are used by enterprises, government agencies, and top-level domain (TLD) operators across the globe.

"At the core of our work is proactive threat intelligence,' says Swapneel Patnekar, Chief Security Researcher and CEO. "Our team remains focused on detecting and mapping cyber criminal network infrastructure and delivering pre-emptive threat intelligence data that covers pig-butchering/romance baiting, investment and cryptocurrency frauds, phishing, malware, command-and-control (C2) and more. The company also protects enterprise customers from cyber threats with their cost-effective hardware solutions - network firewall, network attached storage and point-to-point VPN devices,' he said. Constant vigil, across borders and timelines, has made the teams detect or prevent online frauds in more than 50,000 government and private websites. Among Shreshta's customers are Indian Railways and the National Internet Exchange of India, besides private companies.

Secure connectivity products

Hitesh Dharmadasani knew that the benefits of long morning walks were good health and mental peace. "I never realised it could be the best method of idea incubation, till I got an idea that changed my life,' he says. The young post graduate from George Mason University in the USA, had come home for a vacation. But the solo walk had a lasting effect. He decided to stay back. Five years ago, he and his wife, a media professional, set up an IT company. The office on the second floor of a clothing retailer shop, has come to employ around 40 techies and sells its products across the globe. What is more, it has set up branch offices in Bengaluru and Delhi. Seven out of ten of their employees are based in Belagavi, Dharmadasani's home town.

"We build network security and secure connectivity products, Complex Firewalls and Routers for secure connectivity. We have clients all across the board, from small professional services like chartered accountants and advocates , to large NBFCs with 2000+ branches and critical infrastructure government bodies," he says. "Our competitors are mostly U.S. and Israel companies.'

Patenting Ideas

Vayavya Labs founded by a small team of engineers and managers has won several patents in niche technology areas. The company specialises in cutting-edge domains such as digital twins (virtual ECUs), coverage-driven verification and validation (V and V) for ADAS/AV, cybersecurity, and software-defined vehicle architectures. The company also provides full-stack embedded systems development, serving some of the most prominent semiconductor and automotive companies worldwide.

"Our range of products and services is wide," R.K. Patil, CEO and co- founder, said. "We create embedded software experts for automotive, EDA/semiconductors, and communication, Digital Twins - Virtual Platform Development For Faster SoC Verification, Assisting in migration to OpenScenario2.0, SDV Cloudification, and EDA and Semiconductors," he said.

Hardware, software etc.

Ajit Patil is a serial entrepreneur who has his hands in both hardware and software. He started with a business to provide fast internet to students and households in Belagavi. He later founded a company that provided out of box cloud services. Presently, he is producing Revolt RV1, an electric bike that has gained a cult market among the youth. Another entrepreneur Virendra Kadam's Deltasys E-Forming makes 3D printers. His machines are being used by various industries now.

Amey Kadle of Ajinkya Technologies recently signed a MOU with Samsung for developing mobile software. There is a wide variety of start ups and other companies of significance here. Some of them include SenseGiz founded by Abhishek Latthe, Ecobillz by Ameet Patil, and Akxa Infotech by Amit Agarwal.

Immense benefits

Many of the founders say the benefits of such a move are immense. "The choice of my office is a give away," laughs Patnekar. "We set up an office next door to our house. That shows how tired we were of Bengaluru traffic woes." In the initial years, his wife Puja Patnekar who is Shreshta's head of operations, juggled her duties as a mother, home maker, and corporate leader, by literally running between the house and office, several times daily. Patnekar recalls an interesting incident. Shreshta had developed `Sherlock,' a wireless digital device that could scan a mobile phone or tablet to see if it was infected with viruses or other threats. They wanted to put it up in a public place like the police head quarters. "One day, Police Commissioner Iada Martin Marbaniang and Deputy Commissioner Rohan came visiting after office hours, unannounced. All our team members had gone home. But within 15 minutes, our whole team was back at the office. I told the commissioner that we could do that only because we are situated in Belagavi. This is impossible for a metro-based company," he said.

Patnekar does some pro-bono consulting and lecturing. He has addressed college students, working professionals, senior citizens and members of organisations like Rotary Clubs. He is regularly consulted by victims of cyber frauds and investigators.

During the COVID -19 pandemic, Dharmadasani proved to be the go-to man for the district administration for data crunching. He helped officials at the war room to aggregate and analyse data of infections, admissions, deaths and vaccinations, other than helping with the logistic chains managing supply of oxygen, food and other materials.

R.K. Patil and Ajit Patil have been trying to build an ecosystem that promotes entrepreneurship and develop industry and business around small towns. They have helped the State government fine tune its Beyond Bengaluru policy.

They are active members of the Belagavi Technology Companies Association (BeTCA) that has been organising annual conferences and networking events. "The annual BeTCA sessions have proved that high-quality tech solutions are accessible and that has led to several exciting collaborations,' said Uday Kinjwadkar, a member.

Ajit Patil is keen not to romanticise this. "It is just our way of working. We like it here and are bound to stay here. We want to prove the real potential of tier-two towns like Belagavi in producing globally competitive products," he said. He plans to partially fund the Centre of Excellence in electric vehicles in Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU).

"While our faculty members are training young people in traditional courses and in new frontiers, our laboratories are enabling further research," said VTU Vice-Chancellor S Vidyashankar. "It will be a hub for start-ups to promote their skills," the VC said. "We have been hearing the complaint that most graduates these days, especially engineering graduates, are 'unemployable'. But our centre will help them turn entrepreneurs. We will encourage students to come up with innovative solutions to long standing problems in traditional and new industries and even in fields like agriculture, veterinary and animal husbandry."

With the aim of encouraging and mentoring students' ideas and turning them into feasible projects, VTU has set up the Visvesvaraya Research and Innovation Foundation (VRIF). It has an incubation centre in the VTU campus on Goa road. It is set up to provide opportunity to students and faculty for innovation, incubation, start-ups and IPR.

Employees at work at Vayavya Labs in Belagavi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Young engineers working at the tiny office of Prosoft, a Belagavi-based IT company, whose products are sold overseas. P.K.BADIGER

Need to do more

However, complaints remain. Rohan Juvali, former president of the Belagavi Chamber of Commerce and Industries, feels the State government's Beyond Bengaluru initiative has remained a mere slogan. "The government has to be more serious about promoting industries and businesses in tier two and tier three cities and towns. Whatever we are witnessing here is being done by entrepreneurs on their own. With necessary support, we will grow several times," Juvali said.

Two CISF men booked after man killed in 'road rage'

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Two officers of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) have been charged with murder after they allegedly drove with a young man clutching the bonnet of their car for over a kilometre before he was thrown off and then fatally knocked down by the vehicle in a suspected case of road rage at Nayathodu, near the Kochi airport on Wednesday.

The accused are CISF inspector Vinay Kumar Das, 28, and constable Mohan Kumar, 31, both residents of Bihar and posted at the Kochi airport. The victim was identified as Ivin Jijo, 25, of Thuravoor, near Angamaly. He was a chef with a flight catering service and was on his way to report for his night shift.

"We have the two accused under surveillance and are collecting further evidence. We are verifying eyewitness accounts, CCTV footage, as well as a video shot by the victim. A first information report (FIR) has been registered. Whether the accused were under the influence of alcohol remains to be verified," said District Police Chief (Ernakulam Rural) M. Hemalatha.

According to the FIR, the cars of the victim and the accused brushed against each other while travelling along a narrow road, triggering a verbal duel. Meanwhile, the CISF suspended both the accused from service and ordered an inquiry.

Restore Kancha Gachibowli forest or risk jail for officials: SC to Telangana

Supreme Court raps State authorities over illegal deforestation; IT infrastructure and ecology could go hand in hand, argues State's counsel; Chief Justice Gavai asks why felling of trees was initiated during a long weekend when courts were closed

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday gave the State of Telangana a choice between restoring the ruined acres of Kancha Gachibowli forest where trees were felled for an IT infrastructure project during an extended weekend or face the prospect of its Chief Secretary and "half a dozen officials" being sent to a "temporary prison".

"It is for the State to make a choice between restoring the forest or having the Chief Secretary and officials in prison," Chief Justice B.R. Gavai stated firmly on Thursday.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, appearing for Telangana, said the State deserved its day in court to persuade that IT and ecology could go together.

"We have always been advocates of sustainable development. But the question here is the felling of thousands of trees" the Chief Justice reacted.

Nature's loss: Excavators used by the State government seen in the 400-acre land in Kancha Gachibowli, in Hyderabad last month. PTI

Forest Survey report

Mr. Singhvi maintained that "thousands" of trees were not cut. "We have seen the photographs," Chief Justice Gavai responded.

Amicus curiae, senior advocate K. Parameshwar, drew the attention of the court to a finding in a Forest Survey of India report that out of the 104 acres cut in two nights, over 60% had been moderately and heavily dense forest. "So there is a very clear finding," Mr. Parameshwar submitted.

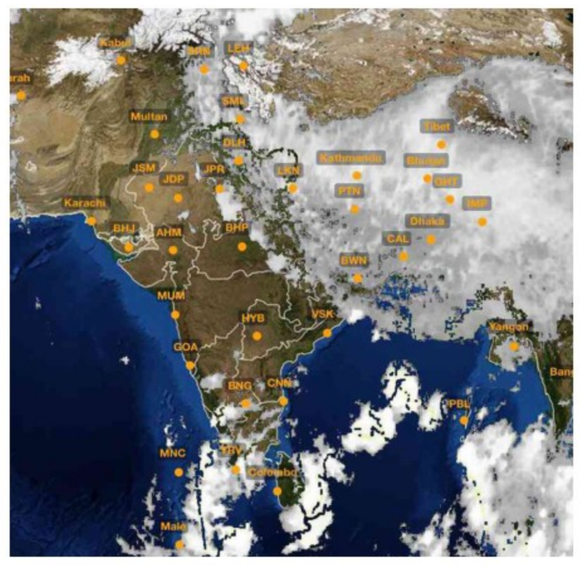
The State had previously denied the land was a forest. The claim sprung up only after developmental activities commenced following the allotment of the land. Mr. Singhvi said the intention of the State was bona fide.

"If your intention was bona fide, why did you start the felling of the trees at the beginning of a long weekend when courts were closed? " Chief Justice Gavai responded.

The court scheduled the case for further hearing on July 23.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Sub Himalayan West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over west Rajasthan, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.2	25.0	Kozhikode	—	36.0	27.2
Ahmedabad	—	38.8	29.0	Kurnool	3	37.0	24.7
Aizawl	—	31.2	20.2	Lucknow	—	42.4	26.2
Allahabad	—	44.4	26.7	Madurai	62.5	39.8	26.6
Bengaluru	—	31.4	20.3	Mangaluru	—	33.7	26.4
Bhopal	0.8	37.3	25.6	Mumbai	—	34.4	26.0
Bhubaneswar	—	39.2	27.2	Mysuru	1.6	34.2	22.0
Chandigarh	—	41.7	25.3	New Delhi	—	40.6	25.4
Chennai	—	36.8	28.9	Patna	—	40.5	28.3
Coimbatore	7	35.6	24.0	Port Blair	13	31.0	25.1
Dehradun	—	38.3	21.5	Puducherry	—	35.6	26.4
Gangtok	29	20.1	15.9	Pune	—	37.7	25.6
Goa	—	35.0	29.0	Raipur	—	41.2	29.8
Guwahati	13	29.4	21.5	Ranchi	—	37.9	26.4
Hubballi	—	33.0	24.0	Shillong	18	23.0	14.0
Hyderabad	2	35.6	22.8	Shimla	—	30.8	19.8
Imphal	—	30.6	21.6	Srinagar	—	30.0	13.0
Jaipur	—	42.4	27.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.9	26.6
Kochi	0.8	33.0	26.2	Tiruchi	—	37.9	24.4
Kohima	—	22.2	17.1	Vijayawada	—	39.6	29.6
Kolkata	—	37.4	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	35.8	29.4

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	96	22	125	133	
Bengaluru	9	4	22	34	138	
Chennai	15	25	35	76	62	
Delhi	32	30	22	325	410	
Hyderabad	8	65	39	42	62	
Kolkata	5	19	24	74	77	
Lucknow	13	59	57	262	214	
Mumbai	38	60	2	38	176	
Pune	16	56	76	60	65	
Visakhapatnam	8	64	32	70	111	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 337 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tiger kills man in Kerala rubber plantation, residents hold stir

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

A 44-year-old rubber tapper, Gafoor Ali, was mauled to death by a tiger while working at a plantation at Adakkakundu, near Kalikavu, in the eastern part of Malappuram district on Thursday morning.

Gafoor Ali from Kallamoola in Chokad grama panchayat was about to start tapping work at a rubber plantation when the tiger attacked him from behind. His co-worker Samad who was with him fled for safety as the tiger pounced on Gafoor and dragged him away. A joint search by the forest and police officers found Gafoor's body in a bushy area 200 metres behind the rubber plantation.

Local residents, angered by the tiger attack, refused to let Gafoor's body be removed from the spot. They accused the forest staff of ignoring their repeated complaints in the past several months about the threat of wild animals, including tigers, leopards and elephants.

"The forest staff did not even install a trap or cage to capture the wild cat," said a local resident.

Meanwhile, a couple of kumki elephants were brought to Nilambur to capture the tiger. A team of forest veterinary surgeons also reached Kalikavuto join the anti-tiger drive.

A.P. Anil Kumar, MLA of Wandoor, held talks with the agitating residents and assured them immediate action. Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran said the government would release the first tranche of the ex gratia payment, estimated at ₹10 lakh, to the next of kin of Gafoor immediately.

Maoist leader presented before Shivamogga court

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

B.G. Krishnamurthy, who once led the Maoist movement in Karnataka, was presented before the Principal District and Sessions Judge here to record his statement in cases registered against him in Agumbe police station in Tirthahalli taluk, on Thursday.

He was brought to the court from Thrissur jail in Kerala. He recorded his statement on cases related to setting ablaze a KSRTC bus at Agumbe in July 2007 and two more cases reported in 2009. While making his statement, Krishnamurthy also sought permission to take law books and books on literature to the prison.

The court stated that the jail superintendent of the High Security Jail at Viyyuru in Thrissur was permitted to allow the accused to take the books if it was permissible as per the jail manual. Considering the request by the police, the court allowed him to be lodged in Shivamogga Central Prison for a day. He would be taken back to Thrissur, about 600 km from here, on Friday.

MANUU nixes MoU with Turkish institute

The Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad on Thursday announced the immediate cancellation of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a Turkish institute as a mark of protest against Turkiye's support to Pakistan.

According to news reports, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh had said that Pakistan had used multiple drones, possibly of Turkish origin, for its intrusions from Leh to Sir Creek at several locations.

In a statement issued to the media, MANUU communicated its decision to effectively terminate a five-year academic collaboration with the Yunus Emre Institute which was signed on January 2, 2024.

DCA seizes syrup stocks over misleading fever cure claim

Officials from the Telangana Drugs Control Administration (DCA) have seized stocks of a syrup marketed as a cure for 'all types of fevers', citing violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. During a raid conducted on Wednesday at a medical store in Adilabad, the DCA officers found the product, 'Herbal Fever Guard Syrup' being sold with a label that falsely claimed it could treat all types of fevers. The medicine is manufactured by International Herbal Corporation Private Limited, based in Uttarakhand, said a release.

Weaver offers matchbox-sized saree to temple in Vijayawada

A handloom weaver, N. Vijay Kumar from Sircilla, Telangana, has presented a silk saree weighing 100 grams that can be folded into a matchbox to Goddess Kanaka Durga at the Durga Malleswara Swamywarla Devasthanam in Vijayawada on Wednesday. The saree, measuring five-and-a-half meters in length and 48 inches in width, is made of silk threads and gold embroidery. Mr. Vijay Kumar said: "Presenting a saree to the Goddess once in two years is a family tradition. It took me five days to weave the saree."

Temple tour

Traditional stride: Miss World 2025 contestants representing the Caribbean and American regions visit the Yadagirigutta Temple in Yadadri Bhongir as part of a cultural tour on Thursday. A special puja was performed in their honour in the temple. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pay more to travel by Hyderabad Metro from tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad (L&TMRH), which has built and runs the Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR), has for the first time announced a ticket fare hike from two rupees on the minimum fare of ₹10, to ₹15 for the maximum fare of ₹60, effective from Saturday.

In a press release on Thursday, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer K.V.B. Reddy said the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) had recommended the revised rate structure, striking a "fine balance" between affordability and financial sustainability.

The FFC, under the chairmanship of a former High Court Judge, was constituted by the Centre on September 5, 2002, and it had recommended a revised fare structure on January 25, 2023.

These recommendations made are "binding" on the Metro Railway Administration or L&MRH, he maintained.

Mr. Reddy said the revised fare structure was "essential for maintaining and enhancing the quality of Hyderabad Metro Rail (HMR) services for all". The fare hike is about 20% to 25% for the fares ranging from ₹10 to ₹60 currently.

Delhi Metro has already raised fares twice and Bengaluru Metro – which took off during the same year as the Hyderabad Metro – has recently raised the fares by 45%.

12-day Saraswati Pushkaralu kicks off

P. Sridhar
JAYASHANKAR BHUPALPALLY

Kaleshwaram, the historic pilgrimage centre in Telangana's Jayashankar Bhupalpally district, witnessed a steady stream of pilgrims right from the early hours of Thursday as the 12-day Saraswati Pushkaralu got off to a devotional start – revered as "Trilinga Kshetram".

The once in 12-year event began at 5.44 a.m. with Ganapathi puja, ankurarpana, and other holy rituals amid chanting of vedic hymns by the priests of the historic Sri Kaleshwara Sri Mukteshwara Swamy temple. Madhavananda Saraswati Swamy of Sri Gurumadananda Saraswati Peetham performed special rituals marking the start of the holy event at "Triveni Sangamam" the confluence of the Godavari, the Pranahita and the subterranean Saraswati rivers.

Justice Surepalli Nanda of the Telangana High Court, IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu and Bhupalpally MLA Gandra Satyanarayana Rao were among those who took the holy dip.

The event is being conducted officially by the State government.

Mahadayi river diversion: protests over study claiming its limited impact on Goa

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

A protest has emerged in Goa following the publication of a scientific paper on Mahadayi river by the CSIR- National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Goa and the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Hyderabad.

The legal dispute between Karnataka and Goa over the water sharing agreement from Mahadayi river has lasted over two decades. Despite the Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal's (MWDT) order five years ago, the matter remains an emotional subject in both the States.

The dispute between Karnataka and Goa over the water sharing pact from Mahadayi river has lasted over two decades. FILE PHOTO

The paper 'The water budget of the Mahadayi river and its implications for the inter-State dispute', published in the *Journal of Earth System Sciences* has assessed the water budget of the Mahadayi river by using rainfall mapping and rainfall run-off model to allow them to simulate the discharge at any point along the Mahadayi.

The paper says Karnataka's plans for diversion of the river as approved by the MWDT would not have much impact on Goa.

The diversion from the Kalasa tributary could have "significant impact" but its impact is restricted to the northern part of the Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary in Goa, it added.

Following the publication, members of the Mhadei Movement staged a protest outside the NIO complex near Goa's Dona Paula.

Members of the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP) also voiced out their concerns.

Under control

Low retail inflation is good news for consumers and policymakers

April's 69-month low retail inflation and 13-month low wholesale inflation should come as a relief to the public and policymakers alike. For the public, it shows that the easing of prices in the first few months of the year is continuing. For policymakers, it goes a step further in confirming that last year's alarming levels of inflation are well and truly under control, and that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was right to cut interest rates twice in a row. The fall in retail inflation was driven by a contraction of nearly 11% in vegetable prices, and 5.2% in the price of pulses. However, it is important to note that although vegetable prices are lower than last year, this contraction is mainly due to a very high base – vegetable inflation was in the 27%-30% range in the February-April period of last year. Inflation at the wholesale level, too, was driven down by easing vegetable prices, which contracted 18.26% in April. This, too, was on a relatively high base of nearly 12% last April. The base effect aside, it does look like the government's efforts to bolster buffer stocks of essential food items, conduct open market releases, and ease imports during supply shortages have helped in easing inflation. The other – less positive – factor could have been the liquidity crunch that banks were facing in the first few months of the year. Lower liquidity results in lower amounts left to lend, which squeezes money with companies and the public, and thus can lower inflation. As things stand, even though retail inflation has been decreasing for six consecutive months, its trajectory for the rest of the year will significantly be determined by the monsoon and its vagaries. Similarly, the ongoing tariff uncertainty and threats of retaliation by India will also play a part.

The latest inflation data does have some policy implications. The first and most obvious one is that it will likely encourage the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee to cut interest rates again in June. However, an important consideration for it will also be how the latest GDP growth data – to be released this month end – will look. The other, more immediate step for public sector oil marketing companies is to finally cut fuel prices in line with crude oil inflation in the WPI coming in at a 22-month low. If not, then the government should officially abandon its dynamic pricing policy, where prices are supposedly revised daily. That fuel prices have been virtually unchanged in three years, despite oil prices falling 42% over the period, means the policy is a sham in any case.

New beginning

Syria should dismantle armed groups and adopt inclusive constitution

Until six months ago, Abu Mohammad al-Jolani was a specially designated global terrorist, with a $10 million bounty fixed on his head by the U.S. government. A native of Syria's Golan Heights and a former member of al-Qaeda in Iraq, one of the group's most brutal branches, Jolani founded Jabhat al-Nusra, the al-Qaeda's Syria affiliate, in 2012, during the early stages of the civil war. Thirteen years later, on May 14, Jolani – now known as Ahmed al-Sharaa – met with U.S. President Donald Trump in Riyadh. Mr. Trump, who earlier in the week lifted America's decades-long sanctions on Syria, praised Mr. Sharaa, saying he was "a tough guy. Strong past... Fighter". The meeting was a diplomatic victory for Mr. Sharaa, whose Islamist Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) captured Damascus in December 2024 by toppling the secular dictatorship of President Bashar al-Assad. Mr. Sharaa met Qatar's Emir in Doha in April, seeking support for his fledgling Islamist regime. He enjoys the strong backing of Türkiye. He was welcomed by French President Emmanuel Macron earlier this month at the Élysée Palace in Paris. And in Riyadh, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman played a key role in facilitating his meeting with Mr. Trump. With regional and international recognition, Ahmed al-Sharaa appears poised to shape Syria's present and future.

The lifting of American sanctions opens the door for Syria to join the global economic mainstream and attract foreign investments. Mr. Sharaa has already invited American companies to invest in Syria's oil and gas. Money could flow from wealthy Arab monarchies to war-torn Syria for reconstruction and other business opportunities. But one question remains: what kind of Syria are Mr. Sharaa and his fellow Islamists planning to build? Mr. Sharaa has promised to uphold the rule of law, respect women's rights and protect religious and ethnic minorities. Yet, ever since the HTS captured power, Syria has seen instances of targeted violence against minority communities. In March, hundreds of Alawites, the sect to which ousted President Assad belongs, were killed by Islamist gunmen in the coastal Latakia region. Sectarian tensions remain high in central Syria, where targeted killings and abductions are frequently reported. In recent weeks, Syria's Druze minority has come under sustained attacks, with community leaders describing the violence as a "genocidal campaign". The Kurds in the northeast have called for a decentralised, democratic Syria, firmly opposing the HTS's centralised style of governance. The removal of sanctions and international recognition present a historic opportunity for Mr. Sharaa to steer Syria toward recovery and prosperity. But to that end, he must first stabilise the country internally, dismantle extremist armed groups and adopt an inclusive constitution that guarantees the rights of all citizens. If not, Syria risks following the path of Libya or Afghanistan.

The paradox of the approach to the Manipur issue

Kham Khan Suan Hausing

is a Professor and former Head of the Department of Political Science, University of Hyderabad. He is also an Honorary Senior Fellow, Centre for Multilevel Federalism, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

As the stalemated conflict in Manipur completes two years, the veritable wait for the Godot of political settlement continues to remain elusive. Despite unleashing a trail of devastation, the loss of over 250 lives and an unfolding human tragedy which compelled thousands of internally displaced persons to live in sub-human makeshift relief centres for over two years, Manipur's violence has not secured a high-order-of-national-priority. This is gallingly evident as Prime Minister Narendra Modi maintains his stoic refusal to visit the State and offer a definitive road map to break the impasse. This compares starkly with the topmost-priority accorded by him to the Pahalgam terror strike on April 22, which led to the curtailment of his official visit to Saudi Arabia and the announcement of policy measures.

The very short military stand-off between India and Pakistan and the swift response made eminent sense given the overwhelming and dominant mood of the nation that something decisive had to be done not only to decimate terrorist infrastructure across the Line of Control, but also penalise Pakistan for its alleged sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. As the stand-off and the terms of the understanding/ceasefire likely to be agreed upon by the two nuclear powers continue to take centre-stage, it is highly unlikely that Manipur's continuing human tragedy and political impasse will get the serious attention it deserves.

The approach to the northeast

What explains this paradox? And in what way does this follow a broader pattern of New Delhi's engagement with Manipur, and, by extension, Northeast India?

A clue lies in making a long-term assessment of New Delhi's approach to the Northeast, and for that matter Manipur, which is underscored by its obsession with national security and regime consolidation. Unlike Kashmir, which is the focus in a series of triangular conflicts with Pakistan and China, Manipur's case does not present an imminent threat to India's national security despite concerted efforts over the past two years to make this as such. Although both of India's adversaries were involved in the training of armed independentist groups such as the Naga National Council and its progeny, the NSCN-IM, the Mizo National Front, the United Liberation Front of Assam, and the United National Liberation Front, in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s, their support to these groups remains remote and diminished.

However, because the policy mandarins in Delhi best understand the language of national security, concerted attempts had been made by certain quarters of valley-based civil society groups and self-professed national security experts to squarely blame Manipur's violence on 'lungi-clad' Kuki armed militants across the India-Myanmar border. A case in point is the failed attempt to amplify this threat by the then Chief Minister's office in mid-September 2024 by invoking credible 'intelligent inputs' which forewarned imminent crossover and attack by over '900 Kuki militants' based in Myanmar with the capabilities to launch rocket launchers against Meitei villages. On hindsight, this security bluster was a half-clever ploy to whip up a majoritarian sense of insecurity and used that as a pretext to prepare the grounds for a series of offensive strikes against Kuki-Zomi-Hmar villages beyond the 'buffer zone' on the pretext of combing operations.

> The stance on what is also a national security issue is problematic

Interestingly, the protagonists of national security remain conspicuously muted on the more serious threat posed by the large-scale mobilisation of valley-based insurgent groups, or VBIGs and their foot soldiers in the wake of this violence since May 3, 2023. One immediate consequence of this is the outsourcing of law and order to these groups on the pretext that the State fails to protect villages which remained exposed to transgressions and offensive attacks across the buffer zone. This zone, ideated and enforced by the Indian paramilitary forces after Home Minister Amit Shah visited the State towards the end of May 2023, lies in the foothills and marks the point of territorial and demographic separation between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zomi-Hmars.

Such a problematic stance on a national security issue has also effectively neutralised the security gains obtained by India since it successfully flushed out VBIGs from their safe havens in the valley areas in Operation All-Clear (2004). Instead of prioritising substantive security issues such as an upscaling of intelligence-gathering capabilities, counterinsurgency skills, modernisation and professionalisation of the Indian Army and police, the Indian security policy continues to be stuck in a time-warp of political optics.

The case of fencing as an obsolete outlook

The unusual zeal with which New Delhi pushes the agenda of revoking the free movement regime and spending over ₹31,000 crore for fencing the 1,643 kilometre India-Myanmar border, including the 398 kilometre-long Manipur-Myanmar border, is clearly an instance of an obsolete security overdrive. While this may simultaneously cater to the perceived sense of insecurity whipped up by majoritarian groups based in the valley and eminently suit the pork-barrel brand of politics with promissory collateral benefits to contractors and brokers, the lines of divide are clearly apparent as the Naga, and Mizo, among others, have registered their staunch opposition. Unless such a policy framework is tailored to win the hearts and the minds of transborder people – which seems to be the case here – it is neither likely to augment India's national security nor promote India's neighbourhood first policy via the Act East policy across the India-Myanmar border and beyond.

Unfortunately, a longitudinal assessment of India's national security policy framework across political regimes demonstrates that it is driven more by political optics in ways which help consolidate political regimes, rather than being hard-wired in upskilling security infrastructure. This explains why beyond the public spectacle of holding piecemeal arms surrender events, no sincere effort is made to recover sophisticated arms (numbering over 6,000) and ammunition (numbering over 5,00,000) given away to armed groups since the outbreak of violence. Notwithstanding this, barely around 4,000 of the 6,020 arms snatched away from the State armouries have so far been deposited in response to the State government's call. Interestingly, 894 of these were deposited in response to two deadlines – announced by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla, on February 28, which was extended to March 6, 2025.

The self-congratulatory and nonchalant way in which voluntary arms surrender was pressed for political optics became evident on February 27, a day before the first dateline, when a cavalcade of the Arambai Tenggol, an armed militia accused of perpetrating atrocities against several Kuki-Zomi-Hmar villages, marched across the streets and surrendered 246 weapons at a police station in Imphal. Even though many of these so-called surrendered arms are country-made guns, there is neither a persistent follow-up action after the second deadline passed on March 6, nor any serious attempt to nab and prosecute defaulting individuals under the Arms Act.

An incremental approach such as this may be the key to gradually stabilising law and order. However, the easy and abundant availability of arms and ammunition in the hands of armed groups in the State is likely to perpetuate the ethnic security dilemma even as there is no sustained and credible security guarantee from the State. The reluctant imposition of President's Rule on February 13, 2025 as a convenient escape route to an imminent and inglorious fall of the Bharatiya Janata Party government, after an open revolt within its ranks, and the change of political guard in the State seems to have signalled a subtle, yet stern, message to armed groups across the divide that violence is not going to be tolerated.

Looking ahead

A halting, yet incremental return to normalcy may, however, impel serious political engagements with rival stakeholders in ways that simultaneously accommodate legitimate demands and promote trust and legitimacy to state institutions. As rival parties respectively commemorated May 3 as 'separation day' and a 'day of remembrance and reflection' to push their divergent political agendas, breaking the political impasse and stabilising law and order require substantive policy reorientations that transcend political optics and regime consolidation.

The views expressed are personal

The yearly 'thank you' to nurses is not enough

Meena Putturaj

is an Assistant Professor, DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance Fellow at the Institute of Public Health Bengaluru

May 12 has passed, an annual day where we honour Florence Nightingale and celebrate the unsung heroes of health care – nurses. We praised nurses on this day (International Nurses Day), but the urgency to truly empower the stars of our health-care system quickly fades.

Nursing beyond tradition

Nurses and midwives form nearly 47% of India's total health workforce, yet remain under-represented in leadership, policymaking, and autonomous clinical roles. The perception of nurses as being mere assistants to doctors still prevails, limiting their potential, despite global trends that prove otherwise. The role of Nurse Practitioners (NPs) as independent, advanced care providers capable of addressing health-care gaps has been embraced in Australia, Botswana, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zambia.

NPs are advanced practice registered nurses (such as clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse midwives and certified registered nurse anaesthetists) with specialised training, usually at the master's level. They are certified to diagnose, treat, and prescribe independently in many settings. India has recognised the need for NPs, particularly to expand health-care access in underserved areas. The National Health Policy 2017 has acknowledged that mid-level providers, including NPs, are crucial to primary care. Despite the Indian Nursing Council (INC) initiating structured NP programmes, notably the Nurse Practitioner in Critical Care (NPCC) in 2017 and also the Nurse Practitioner in Primary Health Care (NPPHC), integration remains slow. Initiatives such as the NP in Midwifery programme (2002) in West Bengal and similar efforts in Telangana and Kerala have struggled in the absence of a clear legal framework, defined roles and protected titles. Although some institutions have developed in-house training for extended roles (stoma nurses, diabetes educators, stroke nurses), these positions lack regulatory backing and national recognition.

> More needs to be done in India's health system so that nurses are seen not only as caregivers but also as leaders

India's NP education programmes are designed to focus on advanced clinical skills, diagnosis, treatment, limited prescribing authority, and community engagement. However, there are challenges, a key barrier being the absence of a clear legal framework defining the NP scope of practice, including prescriptive rights. Resistance within some in the medical community, driven by fear of losing power, complicates integration. The curriculum emphasises clinical skills but leaves regulatory frameworks, licensure clarity, and career pathways murky. Who will licence NPs? Will they be recognised legally? Will they be absorbed into public systems or left out? This ambiguity is not just administrative, but is also existential for nurses.

Lessons from Australia

The NP movement in Australia is instructive, having begun with a clear goal to improve access in underserved areas and provide clinical autonomy to qualified nurses. But what made it work was more than just policy; it was politics. Nursing movements were part of the policy dialogues. Legislation protected the NP title. Licensure was formalised. Career ladders were created. Importantly, nurse-led models such as walk-in centres demonstrated that care does not always need a physician's stamp to be effective, safe, and appreciated.

Resistance to nurse autonomy in India stems not only from policy gaps but from entrenched cultural, gender, and hierarchical biases that position nurses, predominantly women, as subordinates to doctors. This mindset influences policy decisions, including opposition to NP roles by the medical community, despite global evidence of their effectiveness. There is also a crisis in the nursing education sector due to lax regulation and corruption. Although the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Act, 2023, signals reform, its real impact remains uncertain. Compounding these challenges is the lack of strong, unified nursing movements, limiting the profession's power to engage in policy processes.

Let nurses lead

NPs are formally recognised in a number of high-income, low- and middle-income countries. Ironically, while Indian nurses excel abroad in NP roles, their potential remains untapped at home. Evidence shows NP-led care matches those with physician outcomes, with high patient satisfaction and lower costs. For India, adopting a collaborative, team-based care model, where nurses practise to their full scope, is progressive and essential to delivering equitable and quality health care.

Realising NP roles in India demands urgent reforms in nursing education, regulation and nursing leadership. This includes closing substandard colleges, enhancing faculty competency, bridging the theory-practice gap, and integrating ethics and leadership, and policy engagement components into nursing curricula. Legal recognition of NPs, with defined licensure and accountability, is crucial. Clear career pathways, fair pay and advancement opportunities must replace the stagnation in nursing roles. Addressing the gender-based undervaluation of nursing is also essential. Critically, nurses must lead nursing reforms through sustained policy engagement. Given their lived experiences, nurses are uniquely positioned to advocate change and challenge medical hierarchy. To achieve this, grassroots nursing movements that are bolstered by strategic alliances and driven by courage, commitment, and the capacity to speak truth to power are needed.

A yearly "thank you" is not enough. India needs a health system that sees nurses not just as caregivers but also as leaders. Honouring them means confronting hard truths about power and privilege.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tasteless remarks

Of late it has become a 'new normal' in the nation, where political figures, under the cover of free speech, voice disgraceful comments, backtrack and tender an apology after the eruption of public outrage. It is time that there are strong measures put in place to act against such statements and persons. Irresponsible comments directed against our security forces who sacrifice much to ensure our safety and well being must be acted against.

S. Seshadri,
Chennai

Mission completed

People tend to glorify war without fully understanding what war hysteria conceals. Conflict escalation reflects a jingoistic mindset. India's 'Operation Sindoor' has delivered a strong message to the neighbour. A full-fledged war would only result in irreparable damage.

Apoorva Tomar,
Dehradun

Gulf trip, Gaza's plight

U.S. President Donald Trump is on a whirlwind tour in the Gulf, clinching, striking and hunting for business deals worth billions of dollars. Meanwhile, a precisely executed agenda of genocide is taking place in Gaza. But who has the time and the inclination to care for this mammoth tragedy?

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Is Bihar's high replacement rate a consequence of poverty?

Saswata Ghosh

Associate Professor at the Institute of Development Studies, Kolkata

Prasenjit Bose

Economist and activist

PARLEY

According to the Sample Registration System report for 2021 released by the Registrar General of India on May 7, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR), which is the average number of children that a woman is expected to have in her childbearing years, in India was 2.0 in 2021, the same as in 2020. While Delhi and West Bengal reported the lowest TFR of 1.4, Bihar reported the highest at 3.0. Is Bihar's high replacement rate a consequence of poverty? Saswata Ghosh and Prasenjit Bose discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Shiv Sahay Singh**. Edited excerpts:

What does a TFR rate of 3.0 mean for Bihar? Does it have any association with poverty?

Saswata Ghosh: The TFR has hovered around 3.0 for the last 6-7 years in Bihar. According to the Expert Committee on Population Projection, Bihar will achieve the replacement level of fertility (2.1) only in in 2039. Bihar is the only laggard State in terms of the fertility transition.

Bihar's infant mortality rate has actually declined and stands at 27 per 1,000 live births from 42 in the past. Other indicators such as women's educational attainment have improved as well, but the State's TFR remains high. High TFR has some linkage with poverty. But poverty is not the only reason for it. In Bihar, there is a culture of high fertility. As per calculations made of unique level data of the National Family Health Survey of 2019-21, across the country, 67% of women said that the ideal number of children for them is two, whereas in Bihar, only 49.6% of women said so.

There are a number of government reports, including NITI Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index, which state that poverty in Bihar is also declining. But despite the improvement in the poverty rate, the fertility rate in Bihar continues to be high.

Prasenjit Bose: These are complex socio-economic questions and the multi-dimensional poverty estimates themselves are far from perfect. I agree with Saswata that cultural factors have an important causality in determining fertility rates. But I would also like to add that there are other economic factors in terms of urbanisation, employment opportunities, and livelihood opportunities, which are not really captured by the MDP (multidimensional poverty) estimates. Therefore, I would not read much into this divergence between TFR and MDP. It could be over simplistic in understanding a complex phenomenon. Ultimately both the estimates are moving in the same direction – poverty is coming down and so is the TFR.

A woman with her children in Patna. RANJEET KUMAR

The SRS figures make a distinction between urban and rural TFR. Across the country, the urban TFR is 1.6 and the rural TFR is 2.2. Is there a wide gap between the TFR in the urban areas of Bihar, which stands at 2.3, and in the rural areas, pegged at 3.1?

SG: If we see the gap between the TFR of rural areas and urban areas across the country, it is 0.6 percentage points, whereas in Bihar, the gap is 0.8 points. There isn't a big difference between 0.6 and 0.8. But what is startling is that the all-India urban TFR is 1.6, while in Bihar it is 2.3. That is puzzling. Why is the TFR so high in urban areas, where the affluent and educated sections of society live? Why is it above the replacement level of fertility?

The demographer Ansley J. Coale had said that human fertility behaviour is a 'calculus of conscious choice'. So if the fertility rate is higher than elsewhere, it is because of the conscious choice of the people. Even if the infant mortality rate has declined and there is higher use of contraception, if the fertility in urban areas continues to remain high, it is a conscious choice. Until and unless the people think that low fertility size is actually beneficial for them, the TFR will continue to be high in Bihar.

Do factors such as a preference for sons, the State being primarily an agricultural economy, and having a relatively small female workforce affect the TFR?

PB: Yes, significantly. In fact, poverty and lack of livelihood and income opportunities have a huge impact on cultural choices, including the number of children people have. Poor people tend to have a cultural preference not only for sons, but for more children. They want more labour, which will lead to more income. Poverty has been the reason why the fertility rate has historically been high everywhere. Cultural choices are intricately linked to the process of social and economic development. But in the case of Bihar, I would specifically point to a few economic factors. Despite being large, Bihar is among the least industrialised States. There is surplus labour and migration, which are related to the question of very high degrees of illiteracy and a dysfunctional primary education system.

> Poverty and lack of livelihood and income opportunities have a huge impact on cultural choices, including the number of children people have. Poor people tend to have a cultural preference not only for sons, but for more children. They want more labour, which will lead to more income.
>
> PRASENJIT BOSE

The literacy rate in Bihar, particularly the female literacy rate, remains low. In the 2011 Census, female literacy was about 53%. Is there a direct correlation between female literacy and TFR or fertility?

SG: Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has consistently pointed out that if we educate women, the fertility rate will go down. He has announced many schemes for girl students, including providing bicycles for them. There is a positive correlation not only between education and TFR, but also between household affluence and higher educational attainment. Upper caste and somewhat affluent households generally send at least one son for higher education to better off regions. However, in affluent and landed households in rural areas, the parents prefer at least one son to stay back with them to take care of their property and support them. So, families ideally prefer two sons. If we look at the data more carefully, we will find that among those who say the ideal number of children is three, 88.2% want two sons. However, since the probability of having two sons successively is only about 26.4% according to a paper by Clark in 2000, a significant share of families ultimately end up with a large family size.

Professor Ghosh, in one of your papers, you had pointed out how mother-in-laws act as mediators between women of reproductive age and ASHA workers who visit them during pregnancy. Can you shed more light on this?

SG: Women are getting educated more and more. Several programmes in this regard are being implemented by the State government. Many of these women are first-generation learners. But they have low employability and their exposure to the outside world is limited. They have lower bargaining power and autonomy in the family, and social mobility. In our study, based on a primary survey of 2,250 women in six districts in Bihar, we found that women in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years were not allowed to directly interact with ASHA workers. These interactions were restricted by their mother-in-laws.

We have empirical evidence now that certain States in the north have a high fertility rate while the fertility rate is declining in the south. Where does this lead us to, particularly in the political context, with the question of delimitation looming large?

PB: I don't think that this problem should be discussed only in the context of Bihar, but also other States in what we call the Hindi heartland – Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. These States now account for a disproportionately large share of the country's overall population. We have a system of representative democracy where 'one person, one vote, one value' is a basic principle. As the delimitation debate opens up, which is likely to happen only after the next Census, we will come across a hugely disproportionate size of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies across the north and the south. We will come across parliamentary constituencies in States with a high TFR with a disproportionately large number of people (25 lakh to 30 lakh voters) being represented by a single MP, whereas the case will be different in States where the TFR is already low or is showing a falling trend. The question is whether they (the States with low/declining TFR) are going to pay the price for bringing down the TFR rate. Will they get rewarded or punished for social and economic progress and policy successes? Because the allocation of resources by the Finance Commission is based on the population size. The onus is on policymakers to bring about some course correction and bring in a convergent trend. If the divergent trend (between States with a high TFR and low TFR) continues, we are looking at a disaster which could pose serious questions for our democracy.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Farewell, Justice Khanna

A quiet man at work, Justice Sanjiv Khanna did not want a voice separate from the institution

Krishnadas Rajagopal

Days before Justice Sanjiv Khanna was to be sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), reporters as usual began scrambling for an exclusive interview with him. Calls and texts to his staff were met with silence or a non-committal "will let you know".

It was strange – the man who was then serving as the top judge made news almost everyday. Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was articulate, suave, and charismatic. A reporter who attended a blood donation camp recounted how he spoke for 10 minutes on the subject. He even sang Christmas carols on camera at an event in the Supreme Court. During his tenure, Aamir Khan and other film personalities attended Court. Judges from other countries visited to watch the Supreme Court in action. The Court felt truly global, and it basked in the attention.

This changed on November 11, 2024, when Justice Khanna was sworn in as the 51st CJI in a short ceremony. He took oath, signed the order, acknowledged the distinguished audience at the Rashtrapati Bhavan with folded hands, and went back to his seat with hardly a smile.

At 11 a.m., the Court was back to work. A sobriety had descended on the courtroom. Chief Justice Khanna hardly spoke, except for an occasional "no, no, no" to a lawyer whose submissions he disagreed with. In the evening, I made a last-ditch, though-half hearted, effort to get an interview, worried that a worthier journalist may have already got it. Instead, there was a surprise. There came an official statement from the Supreme Court – the institution, not the man helming it – about the judiciary's commitment and responsibility as "protectors of citizens' rights and dispute resolvers". Chief Justice Khanna did not want a voice separate from the institution.

In the following months, it became clear that he was a quiet man at work. He seemed to like being missed in the crowd, though his constitutional position thrust him into the public glare. When he spoke in Court, the comment would be brief yet send a ripple. During the Waqf hearing, he told the government side that judges lose their religion when they sit on the Bench. With a few words, he made sure that communal violence did not return to Sambhal. He stopped civil courts from passing orders on suits bent on "reclaiming" temples destroyed by Mughal "invaders" in the 16th century. Lawyers who came ill-prepared were not admonished; they were told gently to prepare better next time. Public interest petitions were distributed among the Benches. Collegiality among the judges was apparent – the judges took a work holiday together.

A crisis loomed when a High Court judge was reported to have made communal remarks. The judge was called by the Collegium and asked to apologise at a public forum. A fire in another High Court judge's official residence led to the discovery of "sacks" of half-burnt currency. Accusations of corruption and lack of transparency in the judiciary gathered momentum. Chief Justice Khanna responded by publishing the preliminary inquiry report on the Supreme Court website, complete with photographs and a video. An in-house inquiry was held. The report remained confidential, but a statement was issued that he had forwarded it to the President and the Prime Minister for action. This was followed by a Full Court decision to disclose the assets of Supreme Court judges on the official website. The list of candidates recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium was also published along with a document detailing the judicial appointments process.

On his last working day, Chief Justice Khanna was invited to share a cup of tea with journalists at the press lounge. A reporter asked him whether the legacy of his illustrious uncle, Justice H.R. Khanna, popularly described as the "best Chief Justice India never had", weighed on him. Pausing for a moment, he shrugged and said, "We cannot compare like that". Retirement, he said, was not bittersweet for him. He was "simply happy".

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK | Fishing in choppy waters

Fisherfolk make most of the pre-monsoon conditions at Shangumugham beach in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. NIRMAL HARINDRAN

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 16, 1975

U.S. recovers ship, crew after naval-land-air operation

Washington, May 15: The United States' forces recovered the American freighter Mayaguez and its 40 crewmen to-day after an attack on Cambodian gunboats in the Gulf of Thailand, a landing on an offshore island and air attacks on airfields on the Cambodian coast. Defence sources said two U.S. Marines were killed and eight others wounded in the attack on Koh Tang island, where the ship was anchored.

Three U.S. helicopters were shot down, while a U.S. strike force wiped out 17 planes on the Cambodian mainland in a covering operation.

The U.S. President, Mr. Gerald Ford, who ordered the attack, gave a one-minute nationally televised and broadcast speech declaring the air-naval-land operation a success.

All U.S. Marines who took part in the operation were evacuated from Koh Tang island. A Defence Department spokesman, Mr. Laitin, said that "heavy and intermittent" small arms fire by the Khmer Rouge had delayed the evacuation of the Marine landing force.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 16, 1925

Indian coal committee

Calcutta, May 15: The Indian Coal Committee was appointed to inquire and report generally on "what measures can be taken by the Government, the coal trade, the Railways and the Ports whether singly or in combination to stimulate the export of suitable coal from Calcutta to the Indian and foreign ports – and in particular whether effective measures can be taken for the pooling and grading of Indian coal for export and for bunkering and how the cost of such measures must be met".

From Page One

Put Pak. nuclear arsenal under IAEA watch: India

Mr. Singh described Operation Sindoor as the "largest and most decisive action against terrorism in Indian history". Referring to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed 26 civilian lives, he added that the offensive was not only about retribution but also about asserting India's commitment to proactive defence. "Terrorists targeted Indians based on their '*dharma*'; we targeted them based on their '*karma*'. It was our *dharma* to eliminate them," he said.

He asserted that the operation had sent an "unmistakable message" to terrorist outfits and their handlers across the border. "You can run, but you cannot hide. Our forces have demonstrated precise targeting capabilities, and the task of counting casualties is now left to the enemy," he said.

Indigenous capability

Highlighting the government's push for indigenous defence capability, the Minister noted that modern arms, missile systems, drones, and communication networks were being rapidly developed domestically. "With enhanced logistical connectivity across the Line of Control and Line of Actual Control, our forces are better prepared than ever before," he said.

Reiterating India's long-standing position on dialogue with Pakistan, Mr. Singh said, "Talks and terrorism cannot go hand in hand. If there are to be talks, they will focus solely on terrorism and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir."

The Minister also referred to Pakistan's previous commitments, including one made over two decades ago during the tenure of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, promising to stop exporting terror. "Pakistan has deceived us consistently. It must dismantle terrorist infrastructure and ensure its territory is not used against India," he said.

In his address, Mr. Singh extended appreciation to the people of Jammu and Kashmir for their resilience in the face of terrorism. "I salute the courage of the people of this region, who have withstood the scourge of terror with fortitude," he said. Accompanying the Defence Minister during the visit were Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, and other senior officials.

T.N. CM slams Reference to top court on timeline

The President's move to seek clarity arose from an April 8 judgment of a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan in a petition filed by the Tamil Nadu government challenging the Governor's delay in clearing 10 re-passed Bills and his subsequent action to reserve them for consideration by the President. The judgment had held the Governor's action illegal. This had led to the default cancellation of the President's decision to assent to one of the 10 Bills while rejecting seven and not considering two others.

The Reference asked whether, in the absence of any constitutionally prescribed time limit for Governors and President, time limits could be imposed and manner of exercise of powers be prescribed through judicial orders. "Can the Constitutional powers of the President/Governors be substituted by a judicial order exercising Article 142? Is Article 142 limited to matters of procedural law or does it extend to issuing directions contrary to or inconsistent with existing substantive or procedural provisions of the Constitution?" it asked.

Article 142 of the Constitution allows the top court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing "complete justice" in any case.

Indirectly questioning the validity of the "deemed" assent, the Reference has queried if a law made by a State Legislature could even "be considered a law in force without the assent of the Governor". "Are decisions of the Governor and the President under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, justiciable at a stage prior to even the Bill in question becoming a law?" it asked.

It said the "concept of deemed assent" of the President and the Governor, introduced in the judgment, was alien to the constitutional scheme.

The Reference has also raised questions about a two-judge Bench of the court pronouncing judgments on "substantial questions of law... without referring it to a minimum five-judge Bench as prescribed under Article 145(3) of the Constitution.

The Reference further asked the court to clarify the constitutional options before a Governor when a Bill is presented to him under Article 200. The April 8 judgment had clearly specified that the Governor had three choices – assent, withhold assent, or reserve a Bill for consideration by the President. Again, the Reference sought the court's opinion on whether a Governor was bound by the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 200. It raised doubts as to whether the "constitutional discretion" of Governors and the President under Articles 200 and 201, respectively, was even justiciable. "Is Article 361 of the Constitution [immunity given to President and Governors from legal action while in office] an absolute bar to judicial review in relation to the actions of a Governor under Article 200?" the Presidential Reference sought.

Justice Pardiwala had clearly dealt with the question while referring to the court's own past judgments. "The immunity enshrined in Article 361 of the Constitution does not preclude or prohibit the courts in any manner from looking into the actions of the Governor which by necessary implication would include his actions under Article 200 as well," the court had held.

Experts debate if Reference is a ploy to bypass judicial review

An opinion by the Supreme Court under a Presidential Reference is not binding, says senior advocate Kapil Sibal; Justice Kaul, former SC judge, says the President had raised points of law and he was expecting 'something like this to happen'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The legal fraternity was divided on whether the Presidential Reference to the Supreme Court on its order in the Tamil Nadu Governor case was merely a ploy by the Union government to "bypass" the normal legal process of challenging the Supreme Court verdict.

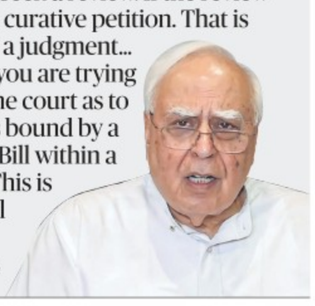
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin lashed out on Thursday that the Reference was an attempt to subvert the constitutional position settled by the April 8 Supreme Court judgment and other judicial precedents.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal agreed with the Chief Minister's viewpoint that the Reference was a clandestine way to reverse the judgment by a two-judge Bench headed by Justice J.B. Pardiwala. "If you do not like a Supreme Court judgment, you seek a review. If the review gets dismissed, you file a curative petition. That is the only way to set aside a Supreme Court judgment... What you are doing here is, by seeking a Reference, you are trying to get an opinion from the court as to whether the President is bound by a direction that you should decide on a Bill within a specific period of time. This is really bypassing the legal process available to them," Mr. Sibal said.

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, however, said seeking a review of the judgment would not be decisive. Moreover, the power of the President to make a Reference cannot be taken away by the Supreme Court's review or curative jurisdiction.

"A review, again, would be by the Bench of the same two judges who pronounced the judgment. Here, the President is saying there is a constitutional issue involved and needs an opinion from the court," Justice Kaul said.

> If you do not like a Supreme Court judgment, you seek a review. If the review gets dismissed, you file a curative petition. That is the only way to set aside a judgment... By seeking a Reference, you are trying to get an opinion from the court as to whether the President is bound by a direction to decide on a Bill within a specific period of time. This is really bypassing the legal process
>
> **KAPIL SIBAL**, senior advocate



The former top court judge said he had "grave reservations" about the court's use of Article 142 in the judgment. He said Article 142 was restricted to the parties – State of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu Governor – in the dispute, and cannot be used to issue directions against the President and other State Governors who were not part of the litigation.

Mr. Sibal argued that an opinion, whatever it may be, under a Presidential Reference was not binding. A judgment of the apex court, on the other hand, was binding on all. The judgment would prevail despite the opinion. He said the President was in her right to seek a Reference, but the Supreme Court need not answer it.

But Justice Kaul said an opinion from the Supreme Court, in his personal view, was "good enough". It would end future conflicts. "What else could have been done here other than seek a Reference, unless another Bench of two or three judges of the court would say the issue needed to be looked into by a larger Bench," he reasoned.

Justice Kaul said he was expecting something like this to happen, saying the President had made the Reference on points of law.

But Mr. Sibal called the judgment a milestone. "If there is no timeframe, they could sit on Bills for months. This is how they intend to destabilise governments. Governors have been interfering ever since this government came to power," he said.

UN launches inquiry over Rohingya 'cast into the sea'

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

The United Nations has launched an inquiry after reports surfaced of Rohingya refugees being forced off an Indian naval vessel into the Andaman Sea.

The organisation has announced the appointment of a UN expert to inquire into the "unconscionable, unacceptable acts", and urged the Indian government to refrain from inhuman and life-threatening treatment of Rohingya refugees, including their repatriation to Myanmar.

"The idea that Rohingya refugees have been cast into the sea from naval vessels is nothing short of outrageous. I am seeking further information and testimony regarding these developments and implore the Indian government to provide a full accounting of what happened," said Tom Andrews, UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, in a statement.

U.K. court rejects Nirav Modi's fresh bail plea: CBI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The High Court of Justice in London on Thursday rejected a fresh bail petition filed by diamantaire Nirav Modi, who is held in a prison there and wanted in India in the ₹13,000 crore Punjab National Bank (PNB) fraud case orchestrated with his uncle Mehul Choksi.

Mr. Modi approached the court seeking his release on bail pending the decision on his extradition request, officials said.

Extradition approved

The 55-year-old businessman is lodged in a U.K. prison since 2019. He is accused of siphoning off ₹6,498.20 crore of the total scam amount.

His extradition has already been approved by the High Court of U.K. in favour of the Government of India, the CBI said.

Home Minister visits AIIMS, meets injured security personnel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) here on Thursday to enquire about the health of the five security personnel injured in the 21-day anti-Maoist operations on the Chhattisgarh-Telangana boundary, which concluded on May 11. Named "Operation Black Forest", the combing operations were carried out in the Karegutta Hills (KGH).

Mr. Shah visited the Trauma Centre at AIIMS, where the injured personnel have been flown in from Chhattisgarh.

"Our security forces are wiping out every trace of Naxalism with their valour. Today, visited AIIMS Trauma Centre, Delhi, and met the security personnel who were injured during anti-Naxal operations eliminating 31 Naxalites in the Karegutta Hills across the Chhattisgarh and Telangana border. Inquired about their health and assured them of the trust and pride the nation takes in them," the Minister posted on social media platform X.

Amit Shah

Nearly 10,000 security personnel, including personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Chhattisgarh Police, were part of the operation.

Officials said that the area was rigged with landmines and the Maoists had used beer bottles to store the explosives.

10 extremists shot dead in Manipur encounter

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Assam Rifles gunned down 10 armed extremists in Manipur's Chandel district on Thursday.

Officials in the State did not specify the group or ethnicity of the extremists, but said it was one of the biggest operations in recent years. The operation continued till the time of reporting.

The Indian Army's Eastern Command said personnel of the paramilitary Assam Rifles unit under Spear Corps launched the operation on Wednesday after receiving intelligence on the movement of armed men near New Samtal village in the Khengjoy area of the district near the India-Myanmar border.

The place is about 130 km from the State's capital, Imphal.

The area had a history of being used by extremists belonging to the Meitei and Kuki communities as a passage to their hideouts in Myanmar or for hit-and-run operations from across the border.

The Assam Rifles, Indian Army, Manipur Police and CRPF personnel recovered weapons in an operation earlier in the year. FILE PHOTO

"During the operation, the troops were fired upon by suspected cadres, to which they quickly reacted, redeployed and retaliated in a calibrated and measured manner. In the ensuing firefight, 10 cadres were neutralised and a sizeable quantity of arms and ammunition have been recovered," the Eastern Command posted on social media platform X.

Meanwhile, the security forces arrested seven extremists belonging to four banned outfits from five districts – Thoubal, Imphal West, Kakching, Bishnupur, and Churachandpur – on Wednesday and Thursday.

These outfits are the United National Liberation Front, Kangleipak Communist Party, People's Liberation Army (PLA), and Khonoma Khaccha Land Army or United People's Liberation Front.

CJI-led Bench to hear arguments on Waqf law the entire day on May 20

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Supreme Court Bench of Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih on Thursday decided to devote an entire day on May 20 to hear arguments for and against an interim order to stay the provisions of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Come prepared: CJI

Chief Justice Gavai asked the lawyers to come prepared and submit a consolidated note of their submissions and points of law beforehand to ensure that the case is not adjourned.

"We will not take up any other matters on Tuesday (May 20)," the Chief Justice addressed the lawyers.

The Waqf law challenge had come up before the Bench of Chief Justice Gavai for the first time, the very next day after he assumed office as top judge.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, and senior advocate Kapil Sibal, on the petitioners' side, suggested at the beginning of the hearing to schedule it for next week, giving the Bench ample time to study the case papers.

The case had last come up before a three-judge Special Bench led by Chief Justice Gavai's predecessor, Justice Sanjiv Khanna, on May 5.

Justice Khanna had at the time expressed reluctance to continue hearing the case, saying he had very little time till his retirement on May 13.

The hearing on May 5 was originally scheduled to hear arguments on an interim order to stay the implementation of the 2025 amendments to the Waqf law, which, according to the petitioners, interfered with the right of Muslims to manage their own religious affairs and properties.

Prior to May 5, the Bench of Justices Khanna, Sanjay Kumar and K.V. Viswanathan had nudged the government on April 17 into coming out with a statement in open court that they would not change the character or alter the status of Waqf properties across the country on the basis of these amendments.

The Bench had recorded the statement in its April 17 order.

The interregnum between the April 17 hearing and May 5 had seen the government file an affidavit in court, highlighting the "phenomenal increase" in Waqf assets in the decade between 2013 and 2024 while justifying the 2025 amendments as a necessary measure to counter rampant encroachments into government and private properties made in the name of Waqfs.

Justice Khanna had opened the May 5 hearing saying the issues raised were serious. He had, however, said with little time left in his tenure, he did not want to reserve orders on interim relief.

In a clear message that his successor would take the call on steering the future course of the case, Justice Khanna had posted the case for hearing next on May 15.

Over a 100 petitions were initially filed in the case, with many following. This had led the Supreme Court to convert the case into a *suo motu* one in order to avoid duplicate petitions and repetitive arguments in court.

The petitions have argued that the 2025 amendments infringed upon and prejudiced the rights of Muslims across the country.

Defence Ministry should hand over property: HC

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has reprimanded the Ministry of Defence for its "wholly illegal" possession of a 130-year-old property in the cantonment town of Mhow, directing the Defence Estates department to restore possession of the disputed premises to petitioner sisters Ann Chandiramani (84) and Aruna Rodrigues (79) within 15 days.

A single judge Bench of Justice Pranay Verma set aside a 2024 appellate court order and noted that the Defence Estates had forcibly evicted the sisters just 24 hours after a lower court dismissed their ownership claim, without giving them an opportunity to appeal.

The property, built in 1892, has been the subject of a prolonged legal battle between the sisters and the Defence Estates since 1995. The sisters had moved the high court in July 2024 after their eviction following the appellate court's rejection of their plea to establish ownership. Notably, the lower court had recognised their possession rights and had not ordered eviction.

APPEAL

Baby Snigdha Ghorai, Hospital No. MH016630197, 1 year 11 months son of Mr. Sankar Prasad Ghorai admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Disease Tetralogy of Fallot, Confluent Branch PAs, LPA Smallish, RA RV Dilated, PV Doming, Peak RVOT Gradient Subvalvar and Valvar of 65MMHG, no major Coronary Crossing RVOT, Right Aortic Arch. She requires to undergo Surgical Intra Cardiac Repair. The estimated cost of the surgery Rs.5,00,000/-.

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Snigdha Ghorai, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. 9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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No radiation leak from any nuclear facility in Pak.: IAEA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The global nuclear watchdog, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), has said there was no radiation leak or release from any nuclear facility in Pakistan during the country's recent military conflict with India.

The IAEA's statement came amid claims being made on social media that Pakistan's nuclear facilities were hit by Indian armed forces during Operation Sindoor.

"Based on information available to the IAEA, there has been no radiation leak or release from any nuclear facility in Pakistan," an IAEA spokesperson said.

Earlier, Air Marshal A.K. Bharti, Director-General of Air Operations, rejected suggestions that India hit Kirana Hills, home to Pakistan's nuclear installations. "We have not hit Kirana Hills, whatever is there," Mr. Bharti had said.

India's strikes hit an airbase in Sargodha and there were some reports that the base is linked to an underground nuclear storage facility in Kirana Hills. External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal rejected U.S. President Donald Trump's claims of having averted a nuclear conflict between the two nations. He said India's military action was in the conventional domain and denied speculation about a nuclear war.

India and Pakistan will continue steps to reduce alertness level, says Army

Pakistan claims 'military-to-military communications' took place; Army chief General Dwivedi visits forward locations, lauds troops for their precise and bold actions during Operation Sindoor

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, interacting with an Army official during visit to forward locations on Thursday. ANI

India and Pakistan have agreed to continue the understanding to "stop all firing and military action on land, in the air and sea" that came into effect from 5 p.m. on May 10. Both countries will also continue the "confidence-building measures" aimed at reducing the alertness levels, the Indian Army said on Thursday without clarifying if the two Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMO) had spoken to each other.

Pakistan claimed "military-to-military communications" took place on Wednesday and Thursday and the ceasefire would remain in effect till May 18.

Meanwhile, as guns remained silent and no drones were sighted over the past two days, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi visited forward locations in Srinagar, Uri, and Unchi Bassi and interacted with the troops.

"Further to the understanding between the two DGMOs on May 10, 2025, it has been decided to continue the confidence-building measures so as to reduce the alertness level. As situation develops further, we shall intimate you," the Army said. However, there were no further clarifications on how it was agreed and if the two DGMOs spoke on the established hotline on Thursday as claimed by Pakistan.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar informed Parliament in Islamabad that both sides had "military-to-military communications" on Wednesday and Thursday and "today we had a conversation and it is a ceasefire until May 18", news agency *AFP* reported.

In response to the Pahalgam terror attack, India launched precision strikes on nine terror infrastructure facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7 under Operation Sindoor. The military confrontation between the two countries then continued till May 10, when the two DGMOs spoke on the hotline at 3.35 p.m in a call initiated by the Pakistani side. An understanding was reached to "stop all firing and military action on land, in the air and sea" and it came into effect from 5 p.m. on May 10.

Israel backs India

Israel on Thursday extended its full support to India's rightful fight against terrorism while lauding the success of Operation Sindoor. This was conveyed by Major-General (Res.) Amir Baram, Director-General, Israeli Defence Ministry, in a telephone conversation with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.

During the interaction with troops on the ground, General Dwivedi appreciated their "precise and bold actions" that resulted in the destruction of terror camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir – a key operational success of Operation Sindoor, Army officials said.

"The visit was a heartfelt gesture of appreciation, focusing not on operational review but on saluting the courage and spirit of troops from all arms and services who played a pivotal role in decisively repelling Pakistani aerial and ground provocations," an Army official said.

While praising their collective grit, high morale, and seamless coordination in countering multiple threat vectors, the Army chief also appreciated the humane role played by the troops in providing relief and assistance to civilians affected by Pakistan's unprovoked and cowardly cross-LoC shelling, officials added.

Pak. wrote to India about restarting talks on Indus Waters Treaty, say sources

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Matter of discussion: India has kept the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attacks. FILE PHOTO

Pakistan has said it is willing to restart talks with India on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), which India has kept in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attacks, government sources, on condition of anonymity, told *The Hindu* on Thursday.

A letter from Syed Ali Murtaza, Secretary, Pakistan Ministry of Water Resources, to India's Water Secretary, Debashree Mukherkjee, was received "a week ago", sources said. The letter asked for India to nominate representatives who could engage in talks with Pakistan's Indus Commissioner, they added.

The Hindu could not independently confirm the content of the letter as well as whether it was sent following Operation Sindoor. "It was amid all the happenings," a source said but declined to share a finite date.

The External Affairs Ministry declined to comment. *The Hindu* has written to Mr. Murtaza, but has not received a comment.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told presspersons on Thursday: "The Indus Waters Treaty is held in abeyance and will continue to be held in abeyance until the cross-border terrorism by Pakistan is credibly and irrevocably stopped."

Under the IWT, both India and Pakistan have Indus Commissioners who lead delegations for talks regarding water-sharing aspects governing the treaty which has been in force since 1960.

'Written four times'

India, however, said last September that no more meetings of the Permanent Indus Commission would be held till the governments of India and Pakistan meet and discuss the renegotiation of the IWT. The last meeting reportedly happened in Delhi in May 2022. Since January 2023, India has written four times to Pakistan to initiate talks on revising the treaty but, according to sources, not received a "satisfactory response".

"India's position is that re-negotiation of the treaty could be done only government-government and not by Indus Commission representatives. Pakistan offered to meet at a neutral venue but we proposed that we meet in Islamabad. Following this there was a silence for four of five months and now they have sent us this letter," a person familiar with the content of Mr. Murtaza's latest letter, told *The Hindu*.

The letter, sources said, has Pakistan's objecting to India's action of keeping the IWT in abeyance. However, it says Pakistan was willing to meet and would like to begin the process for arranging the necessary logistics. India has not taken a call on the response to the letter.

Following the Pahalgam attacks, India decided to stall the treaty and declared its intent to "not give a drop of water" to Pakistan. Under the terms of the IWT, India cannot create significant hydel power storage on the western rivers of Indus, Jhelum, Chenab and must maintain water levels at prescribed levels, to ensure no untoward flooding or disruption of Pakistan's agriculture happens.

India's talks with Pakistan will be 'strictly bilateral', says Jaishankar

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Minister S. Jaishankar with Honduran Foreign Minister Enrique Reina during the inauguration of the Embassy of Honduras. PTI

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday reiterated that India's conversation with Pakistan will be conducted in a "strictly bilateral" format.

Speaking to presspersons after the launch of the new embassy of Honduras here, Mr. Jaishankar referred to the "national consensus" on conducting dialogue with Pakistan saying that there has been "absolutely" no change in that consensus. The remarks from Mr. Jaishankar came as U.S. President Donald Trump once again spoke about the role that he played in bringing the latest India-Pakistan conflict to a pause.

"To me things are fairly clear. Let me take this opportunity to spell out our position. Where Pakistan is concerned, our – relations – dealings with them will be bilateral and strictly bilateral – that is a national consensus for many years and there is absolutely no change in that consensus that dealings with Pakistan will be bilateral," said Mr. Jaishankar speaking to presspersons. He clarified that talks with Pakistan will be on India's concerns about Pakistan-based terror outfits.

"The Prime Minister made it very clear that the only talk with Pakistan will be on terror. Pakistan has a list of terrorists who need to be handed over. They have to shut down the terrorist infrastructure. They know what to do. We are prepared to discuss with them what needs to be done on terrorism," said Mr. Jaishankar arguing, "Those are the talks that are feasible."

Mr. Jaishankar's emphatic remarks on the "bilateral framework" regarding Pakistan came even as President Trump, who is on a tour of the Gulf, referred to his reported role in bringing the Operation Sindoor to a pause. "I sure as hell helped settle the problem between Pakistan and India last week which was getting more and more hostile and all of a sudden, we started seeing missiles of a different type and we got it settled," he said while addressing U.S. troops stationed at the Al-Udaid airbase in Qatar.

HC slams police over contents of FIR against Minister, to monitor probe

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Vijay Shah

The Madhya Pradesh High Court on Thursday slammed the State police over the content of the first information report (FIR) filed against State Cabinet Minister Vijay Shah after his inflammatory remarks about Colonel Sofia Qureshi. The police had filed the FIR on the directions of the High Court.

A Division Bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Anuradha Malik asked why the viral speech made by the Minister on May 12 was not mentioned in the FIR, and said it will monitor the police probe in the case.

The FIR was filed against Mr. Shah just before midnight on Wednesday at the Manpur police station in Indore Rural under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Sections 152, 196 (1)(b), and 197 (1)(c), in compliance with the court's directions that an FIR be lodged within four hours.

Justice Sreedharan expressed the court's dissatisfaction on the contents of the FIR, and said that it was "vulnerable to being quashed" in the absence of the description of the speech. The court directed that its entire May 14 order be read as part of the FIR to ensure that a "subterfuge" does not take place. The court had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the matter on Wednesday.

Mr. Shah, who has since issued a public apology for his statements, has been facing flak from various political parties.

Superintendent of Police, Indore Rural, Hitika Vasal told *The Hindu* that the investigation had begun and action would be taken as per evidence.

SC to hear Minister's plea to stay FIR today

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday questioned the sense of responsibility of Madhya Pradesh Minister Vijay Shah over his inflammatory remarks.

"A person holding a Constitutional office is expected to exercise a degree of restraint," it said. Mr. Shah has moved the court for a stay of an FIR registered against him.

The court agreed to hear his case on Friday.

Cong. questions govt. on President Trump's 'zero tariff' comment

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks in Doha that India had agreed to "zero tariffs", the Congress on Thursday questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's silence on the subject.

"The Commerce Minister is in Washington DC and President Trump has made yet another grand announcement from Doha. There is total *chuppi* from our PM. What has he agreed to and what linkage is there between this and the stoppage of Operation Sindoor?" Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said on X.

"India is one of the highest tariff nations in the world. They have offered us a deal where basically they are willing to – literally – they charge us no tariff. We go from the highest tariff – you could not do business in India, we are not even in the top 30 in India because the tariff is so high – to a point where they have actually told us that there will be no tariff," Mr. Trump said in Doha.

Mr. Trump's comment comes at a time when Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is scheduled to visit the U.S. to carry out trade negotiations.

Govt. postpones credentials ceremony featuring new Ambassador of Turkiye

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Turkish envoy Ali Murat Ersoy presents his credentials to Anshuman Gaur, Chief of Protocol at the MEA, in April. @TC_YENIDELHIBE

Against the backdrop of protests against Turkiye, the protocol division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday postponed the credentials ceremony of the new Turkish Ambassador to India.

The MEA, in a brief announcement, said the credentials ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan had been deferred from Thursday due to scheduling issues.

The postponement of the event came as a surprise, said a diplomatic source who was informed just minutes before the event was to take place.

Apart from Turkiye's Ambassador Ali Murat Ersoy, Bangladesh's new High Commissioner Riaz Hamidullah and the envoys of Thailand, Costa Rica, St Kitts and Nevis were to present their credentials to President Droupadi Murmu in the ceremony that was postponed.

Mr. Ersoy took charge in March after Turkiye's previous envoy, Firat Sunel, was transferred back to Turkiye. Mr. Ersoy earlier presented a copy of his credentials to Chief of Protocol Anshuman Gaur on April 4. The ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan is part of the formal diplomacy that India-based heads of missions are expected to attend as they represent their head of government to the Indian state.

One of the relevant diplomatic missions said the event was fixed at least 10 days in advance, and said such a pre-fixed credentials event was rarely postponed. Sources, however, refused to pin the postponement to the ongoing difficulties in relations with Turkiye that was impacted after Ankara delivered military support to Pakistan.

Govt. revokes security clearance for Turkish ground handling firm

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Clearance has been revoked with immediate effect in interest of national security, it said

The aviation security regulator on Thursday revoked the security clearance for Turkish ground handling service provider Celebi with "immediate effect" on the ground of "national security".

"The security clearance is hereby revoked with immediate effect in the interest of national security," according to an order from the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) issued for Celebi Airport Services India Private Ltd. A press statement from the Ministry of Civil Aviation said that security clearances of associated companies were also cancelled.

Çelebi, a key player in ground and cargo handling, operates at nine Indian airports.

Minister for Civil Aviation K. Rammohan Naidu said special teams would be deployed at airports to oversee operations and address any emerging issues in real time.

INBRIEF

Former Defence Secretary takes charge as UPSC head

Former Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar took charge as Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Thursday. He was administered the oath of secrecy by Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.), the senior-most member of the Commission. Mr. Kumar belongs to the 1985 batch of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) of Kerala Cadre. During a career spanning 35 years, he has served in key positions in the Kerala Government as well as in the Centre. In his last assignment, he served as Secretary, Ministry of Defence.

Tushar Mehta to lead lawyers' team in Tahawwur Rana trial

The Centre has appointed a team of lawyers headed by Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta for the trial against extradited Pakistani-Canadian terrorist Tahawwur Hussain Rana in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case. In a notification, the MHA said the appointment has been made exercising the powers conferred under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023. The NIA secured Rana's extradition from the U.S. after years of sustained efforts and arrested him on April 10 upon his arrival here. Rana is accused of being involved in the conspiracy behind the 2008 strikes orchestrated by Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba in which 166 people were killed and over 238 injured. PTI

Centre to step up diplomatic outreach on Indo-Pak. clash

Gov.t. will form teams comprising leaders from across political lines, who will visit key capital cities across the world and interact with govt. and civil society groups to present India's case

Suhasini Haidar
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The government is planning to send multi-party delegations for a diplomatic outreach with other countries to present India's point of view on the recent India-Pakistan conflict in the wake of the Pahalgam attack, in which 26 tourists were killed by unidentified terrorists.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) did not respond to requests for a comment on the plan and why the government felt it was required. The government's move to mobilise all-party delegations mirrors similar initiatives by previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments, to make India's case abroad on crucial issues.

As per sources, the delegations will comprise prominent leaders and parliamentarians from across the political lines. It will also have former diplomats and other specialists. The multiple groups will leave for different destinations across the world on May 23. They will visit various capitals and interact with both government and civil society groups. Sources also confirmed that former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad, who leads the Democratic Progressive Azad Party, and All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi are likely to be part of the delegations. Since the Pahalgam attacks on April 22 and Operation Sindoor, the Narendra Modi government has projected India's "secular" image, choosing two women of different faiths, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, to lead the military briefings.

"The idea is to bring the focus back on the core issue of terrorism, which perhaps has not received the necessary attention from the world leaders," an Opposition Rajya Sabha member said.

The move comes after the Indian government strongly refuted U.S. President Donald Trump's claim on his behind-the-scene role in bringing the hostilities between India and Pakistan to a pause. Under Operation Sindoor, India conducted strikes on nine terror locations inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7.

Tricolour shines: BJP workers hold a 'Tiranga' march in support of 'Operation Sindoor', in Srinagar on Thursday. IMRAN NISSAR

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal at a press conference in the capital on May 13 said that the government did not deviate from its stated policy, that "any issues pertaining to the Indian Union Territory of J&K have to be addressed by India and Pakistan bilaterally".

Past governments too have reached out across the aisle to assist them in presenting the country's view point and for better people-to-people outreach. In 1994, Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao sent Leader of the Opposition Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former J&K Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, Salman Khurshid and other leaders to make India's case at the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) in Geneva, where a Pakistan-sponsored resolution that sought to censure India on human rights in J&K was defeated.

MP and former Human Resources Development Minister Kapil Sibal had appealed to the government last week to consider sending such delegations after Operation Sindoor. He had led a similar delegation to Africa in 2008.

Jaishankar speaks with Taliban's Acting Foreign Minister

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Muttaqi condemns the terror strike in Pahalgam on April 22 that left 26 dead

Marking the first Minister-level outreach to the Taliban administration in Afghanistan, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday held a telephone conversation with the 'Acting Afghan Foreign Minister' Amir Khan Muttaqi. The conversation came days after the Taliban administration, which India is yet to officially recognise, condemned the deadly terror strike in Pahalgam of April 22 that left 26 innocents dead and dozens injured.

"Good conversation with Acting Afghan Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan Muttaqi this evening. Deeply appreciate his condemnation of the Pahalgam terrorist attack," said Mr. Jaishankar in a message on X. Mr. Muttaqi had hosted senior Indian diplomat Anand Prakash in Kabul on April 27 against the backdrop of growing India-Pakistan hostilities following the attack in Pahalgam.

The Taliban administration and India have been intensifying ties since the outfit first came to power in Kabul on August 16, 2021, though India has not yet fully normalised relations with the outfit. India's official policy has focused on the wellbeing of the Afghan people and in that direction, the Government of India has allowed the Taliban to gradually take charge of the Afghan missions in Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad to cater to the consular requirements of Afghan students, visitors and businesspersons.

'No Taliban link'

Rebutting reports in Pakistan media that attempted to link the Taliban with the developments in Kashmir, Mr. Jaishankar further said, "Welcomed his firm rejection of recent attempts to create distrust between India and Afghanistan through false and baseless reports."

Hafiz Zia Ahmed, director of public communication at the Taliban's "Ministry of Foreign Affairs", made a detailed post on X announcing that Mr. Muttaqi asked Mr. Jaishankar to help in securing more Indian visas for Afghan patients and visitors.

He also urged the Government of India to help in freeing Afghan prisoners in Indian jails.

Gig workers' meeting demands minimum wages, social security

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A roundtable held here on Thursday on platform work in the country recommended minimum wages, social security and legal protections for gig and platform workers. The meeting demanded a tripartite welfare Board for gig workers in all States and at the Central level comprising representatives from employees, employers and governments.

The meeting, titled "Current developments, challenges and way forward", organised by a non-governmental organisation, Janpahal, and the Gig Workers Association decided to foster dialogue between stakeholders to identify the way forward in ensuring gig workers' rights within the context of existing policy developments. Janpahal secretary Dharmendra Kumar said the outcome of the meeting would be sent to the policymakers so that a more equitable gig economy could be created in the country.

Voicing concerns: At the roundtable held in Delhi on Thursday, gig workers highlighted the 'harsh realities' they face in the sector. PTI

Representatives from the Union and State governments and international organisations addressed the meeting.

The testimonies shared by workers in the meeting pointed towards "harsh realities of work" in the sector. "The dictatorial and insensitive attitude of the companies is a regular feature in their life. There are no avenues of redress. Their IDs are blocked, and they are thrown out of work for the smallest mistakes or no mistakes. Society also looks at them with disrespect. Most of these workers are not yet organised, and there are only a few initiatives to organise them. Companies are thwarting any attempts by the workers to organise and unionise themselves. Any initiative for organising, protesting and raising demands is met with termination of work," a statement issued after the meeting said.

The meeting demanded a minimum wage/income for the workers based on their logged-in hours. "The continuous reduction in the rate cards for workers should be stopped," it demanded adding that surcharge collected from consumers should be properly shared with the workers.

It also urged the Centre to declare a social security policy for online platform workers.

ISRO set to launch earth observation satellite using PSLV rocket on Sunday

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is all geared up for its 101st launch with the PSLV-C61 / EOS-09 mission to be launched at 5.59 a.m. on Sunday from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

The ISRO on Thursday said the PSLV was moved from the Payload Integration Facility to the Mobile Service Tower at the spaceport in Sriharikota for further integration.

EOS-09 is an earth observation satellite which is expected to boost India's surveillance capabilities in all-weather conditions. The satellite is equipped with C-band synthetic aperture radar enabling capturing of high-resolution images of earth's surface under all-weather conditions round the clock.

Collaboration on: Participants at a meet of the ISRO and JAXA in Bengaluru on May 13 and 14 for the Chandrayaan-5 mission. ISRO

Chandrayaan-5 meet

The ISRO and the JAXA, the space agency of Japan, jointly conducted the third face-to-face Technical Interface Meeting (TIM-3), for the Chandrayaan-5/Lunar Polar Exploration (LUPEX) mission at the ISRO Headquarters in Bengaluru on May 13 and 14.

The meeting was attended by senior officials, project executives, and technical team members from the ISRO, JAXA, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI), Japan.

"Following the legacy of Chandrayaan-1, Chandrayaan-2 (orbiter-based lunar exploration), Chandrayaan-3 (lander-rover based in-situ exploration) and the forthcoming Chandrayaan-4 (India's first lunar sample return mission), the Chandrayaan-5/LUPEX mission will be the fifth mission in the Chandrayaan series of lunar missions, in collaboration with JAXA, to study the lunar volatile materials, including lunar water, in the vicinity of a Permanently Shadowed Region in the lunar south pole," ISRO said.

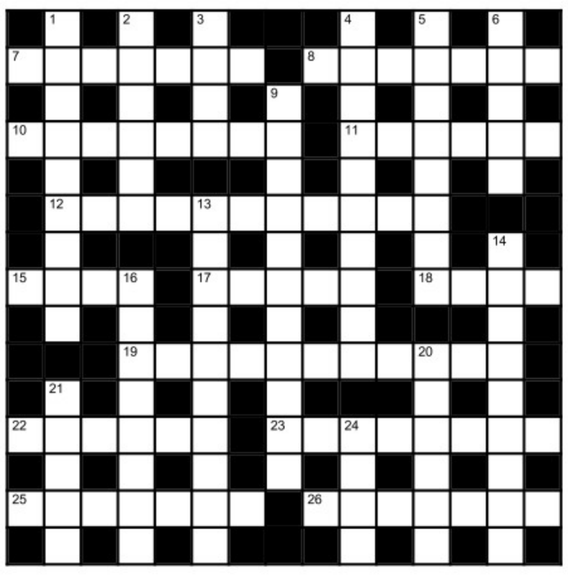
The mission will be launched by JAXA onboard its H3-24L launch vehicle, carrying the ISRO-made lunar lander, which will carry the MHI, Japan-made lunar rover. ISRO, apart from developing the lunar lander, is also responsible for developing a few scientific instruments for the mission. The scientific instruments for this mission would be contributed by ISRO, JAXA, ESA and NASA, all thematically connected with the exploration and in-situ analysis of the volatiles reserved in the lunar polar region.

TH CROSSWORD + 14486

(set by Vidwan)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Timeless quotes about one American giant found in the woods (7)
8 Fat black bumpkin (7)
10 Get real upset about ordinary, true character (5,3)
11 Production about Putin's houses (6)
12 As if it has no variety for someone interested in haute couture (11)
15 Go slow inside city (4)
17 Mixing pain and love softly (5)
18 Certainly hard to follow most of class (4)
19 Called in are soldiers! Time for understanding! (11)
22 Take off day to teach (not American, not English) (6)
23 No, no! Certainly not! Team Spirit's almost all gone permanently! (8)
25 Sea creature, bold and fiercely alive, gobbles up heart of diver (7)
26 Wasting years in sarcasm, out of bounds wise men from time of Sangams or Keezhadi (4,3)

Down

1 Judge's playful, grabs lady's sides, stingy creature! (9)
2 A threat can be assured (6)
3 Sounds like correct practice (4)
4 Oldest boon in form of a precious mineral (10)
5 Release notice (8)
6 Mostly notice odd part of blood (5)
9 An unfit peon becoming a writer! (8,3)
13 Critical: Cry not - Work hard at home ignoring one's heart! (10)
14 Mostly oriental sense of pride, passing over good chocolate candy (6,3)
16 Prophetic visual about Gunners (8)
20 Some term in English for fur (6)
21 Foreigner involves in crime to get established (3,2)
24 Get container for audience (4)

SUDOKU

	9		6				2	
	3				7	5	1	
	4		1				6	3
2	1	8		3				6
6				4		1	3	5
9	6				1		5	
	2	5	3				8	
	8				5		4	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	R	M	F	E	F	D		
P	L	U	R	A	L	I	T	Y
R	M	N	L	E	A	M		
E	P	I	S	T	E	M	O	L
T	N	R	E	I	S	E	H	
T	E	A	G	A	R	D	E	N
Y	N			E	I			R
P	U	T	T	E	R	S	R	I
E			N	L			A	H
N	O	M	I	C	A	R	M	A
N	O	L	P	A	I	M	L	
Y	E	L	L	O	W	B	R	I
	E	S	A	N	D	N	E	
I	S	L	E	N	U	L	L	I
	T	D	G	Y	K	D	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	3	7	2	9	5	4	1	6
4	5	2	6	1	7	9	3	8
1	9	6	4	3	8	5	7	2
2	7	4	5	6	1	3	8	9
3	6	1	7	8	9	2	5	4
5	8	9	3	4	2	1	6	7
9	1	5	8	7	4	6	2	3
7	2	3	9	5	6	8	4	1
6	4	8	1	2	3	7	9	5

FAITH

Idol made by Bhogar

Pazhani hill is known by different names – Sivagiri, Saktigiri and Idumban Malai. Arunagirinatha has sung 96 Tiruppugazh verses in praise of Pazhani Murugan. Because many siddhars lived in Pazhani, it is also called Siddhan Vaazhvu, said T. Rajarathinam in a discourse. Using nine medicinal herbs, the siddhar Bhogar made the idol of Murugan that we worship today. The herbs he used were – lingam, veeram, pooram, talagam, manosilai, gauri vellai pashanam, gandhakam, kudiraippal pashanam and rasa senduram. There is a symbolism behind the use of nine herbs. The number nine is significant here. Hindu philosophy talks of navadwara (nine holes), for the exit of waste and bodily fluids – two eyes, two ears, two nostrils, mouth, anus and genitalia. The body is the house in which the atma resides. This house has nine exit points, and this house is cleaned of all doshas by Pazhani Murugan. The Murugan idol made of nine herbs symbolises this. A substance known as mooppu or karma has been used in the forehead, chest and below the hip.

Abhisheka for Murugan is done with oil, gooseberry extract, milk, curd, ghee, turmeric, sugarcane juice, honey, panchamritham (made with the pulp of fruits), sandal paste, rose water, tender coconut water, tapana kalasa water (water to which cardamom, cloves, edible camphor etc are added). These abhishekas help preserve the image made by Bhogar with navapashanam. Pamban Swamigal was a great devotee of Pazhani Murugan. He wrote 120 verses, in which he referred to Pazhani Murugan as Dandayuthapani. However, Pamban Swamigal did not visit Pazhani even once.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,531	1.48
US Dollar	85.54	-0.25
Gold	95,050	-1.85
Brent oil	64.64	-2.44

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2520.00	58.10
Adani Ports	1406.20	34.40
Apollo Hosp	7072.50	156.00
Asian Paints	2329.90	47.60
Axis Bank	1209.10	13.60
Bajaj Auto	8326.00	223.50
Bajaj Finserv	2041.90	21.50
Bajaj Finance	9188.50	107.50
Bharat Elec	350.40	6.05
Bharti Airtel	1867.20	33.00
Cipla	1502.20	7.40
Coal India	404.65	1.55
Dr Reddys Lab	1236.30	16.30
Eicher Motors	5466.00	19.50
Eternal Ltd.	242.59	5.73
Grasim Ind	2824.80	87.60
HCL Tech	1696.00	58.30
HDFC Bank	1933.80	23.20
HDFC Life	751.20	9.50
Hero MotoCorp	4325.00	257.80
Hindalco	661.35	10.80
Hind Unilever	2355.20	4.70
ICICI Bank	1450.80	24.60
IndusInd Bank	780.50	-0.85
Infosys	1613.00	20.60
ITC	432.65	3.55
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	273.70	6.20
JSW Steel	1038.30	49.00
Kotak Bank	2106.40	14.00
L&T	3618.20	45.10
M&M	3144.30	42.50
Maruti Suzuki	12952.00	282.00
NestleIndia	2398.10	27.70
NTPC	341.95	3.40
ONGC	247.61	1.60
PowerGrid Corp	299.65	3.70
Reliance Ind	1454.20	29.80
SBI Life	1784.60	29.40
State Bank	807.75	7.05
Shriram Finance Ltd.	674.80	22.85
Sun Pharma	1740.10	31.90
TataConsumerProduct	1147.20	26.80
Tata Motors	728.10	29.15
Tata Steel	157.35	2.04
TCS	3579.90	31.20
Tech Mahindra	1629.10	25.90
Titan	3636.80	49.20
Trent Ltd.	5577.50	215.50
UltraTech Cement	11894.00	222.00
Wipro	256.57	3.63

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on May 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.35	85.67
Euro	95.48	95.84
British Pound	113.33	113.76
Japanese Yen (100)	58.45	58.67
Chinese Yuan	11.84	11.88
Swiss Franc	101.75	102.14
Singapore Dollar	65.70	65.96
Canadian Dollar	61.02	61.27
Malaysian Ringitt	19.91	20.02
Australian Dollar	54.69	54.89

Source:Indian Bank

'Trump rhetoric won't harm Apple's India manufacturing'

There is no alarm over the U.S. President's remarks "we don't want you building in India" to CEO Tim Cook, as manufacturing commitments for India and the U.S. are different, say officials here

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Bigger bite: Apple serves demand for phones and accessories via the Foxconn unit in Sriperumbudur among other facilities. REUTERS

Apple, Inc.'s existing and soon-to-be-opened infrastructure in India is sufficient to supply demand for iPhones in India and the United States, government sources said, adding that there was not much alarm in India over U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks to Apple CEO Tim Cook that he didn't "want you [Apple] building in India".

"You can build in India if you want to take care of India," Mr. Trump said in Qatar, describing a conversation he had with Mr. Cook, adding that Apple had already committed $500 billion in investments into U.S. manufacturing.

As far as the assembly of iPhones is concerned, demand for both the U.S. and India in the ongoing quarter can be met with capacity from India, and this is infrastructure that is not practical to shift to a high labour-cost country like the U.S., least of all in short order, an official said.

The manufacturing commitments that Apple has already made for the U.S. are for chips and other components which are not being made in India, the official added.

An Apple spokesperson declined to comment. The company has assured the Indian government that existing plans will not be impacted by Mr. Trump's remarks. Apple is serving demand for its phones and accessories via the following units, both existing and being planned to open: Foxconn assembly unit in Sriperumbudur, Pegatron facility at Mahindra World City, he components manufacturing unit in Krishnagiri, and the new Foxconn facility in Tumkur.

Two of these units – in Tumkur and Krishnagiri – have had their construction completed, and production is likely to start soon. Further manufacturing commitments by the company in India beyond these facilities had not yet been made, an official said, adding that this was only likely to happen after there was more clarity on the bilateral trade agreement being negotiated between India and the U.S.

Sensex jumps 1,200 points, Nifty reclaims 25,000 peak after 7 months

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Benchmark indices extended gains for the second straight day on Thursday.

The benchmark Nifty 50 increased 1.6% to 25,062 points, the highest since October 2024, on Thursday. This is the first time that the Nifty is crossing 25,000 points since corrections and market volatility set in. The BSE Sensex increased 1.5% to 82,531 points, which too was a seven-month high.

Experts say positive returns for three days in a week is a sign that bulls may be making a comeback to the market, which was otherwise clouded by bearish sentiment.

"After displaying weakness with high volatility in the last couple of sessions, Nifty witnessed an excellent upside breakout on Thursday and closed the day with hefty gains of 395 points. After opening on a slightly positive note, the market slipped into intraday weakness with volatility in the early-mid part of the session. A decisive upside bounce has occurred in the mid part and Nifty sustained the gains towards the end," said Nagaraj Shetti, senior technical research analyst at HDFC Securities.

The market has also become less volatile over the week going by the four consecutive days of decline in the India VIX index in the week.

INBRIEF

Infosys employees to get 65% bonus for Q4 of FY25

Infosys has rolled out an average performance bonus payout of 65% for senior managers and staff below for the fourth quarter of FY25, according company sources. Eligible employees would receive the bonus component in the May 2025 payroll cycle, they said. An email Infosys wrote to employees read, "Amidst the complex macro-economic environment in Q4, we remained client-focused and responsive to market needs."

South Indian Bank Q4 net profit rises 19% to ₹342 crore

South Indian Bank on Thursday reported a 19% growth in net profit to ₹342 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2025. The Kerala-based bank had a net profit of ₹288 crore in Q4 of FY24. The total income rose to ₹2,946 crore during the March quarter of 2024-25, from ₹2,621 crore in the March quarter of FY24. The board of directors recommended a dividend of ₹0.40 per equity share of face value of ₹1 each (40%) for the financial year ended March 31, 2025. PTI

Tube Investments Q4 net profit slumps 76% to ₹46.53 cr.

Tube Investments of India Ltd. (TII) reported Q4 consolidated net profit slumped 76% to ₹46.53 crore as compared with ₹191.09 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue during the quarter grew 15% year on year (YoY) to ₹5,017 crore. For FY25, the company's consolidated net profit fell 44% to ₹674 crore from ₹1,206 crore a year earlier. Revenue for the year grew 16% to ₹18,915 crore. The board has recommended a final dividend of ₹1.50 per equity share of ₹1 for FY25.

Robust services sector helps ease trade deficit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise trade started the financial year on a relatively poor footing, with the trade deficit in goods widening to $26.4 billion in April this year, as compared with $19.19 billion last year.

This was mitigated somewhat by the stronger showing in services trade, the data for which is an estimation since the Reserve Bank of India's final data comes with a lag. India's services trade surplus widened to $17.77 billion in April, as compared to $13.42 billion.

However, despite the service sector's stronger showing, India's total trade deficit, counting both merchandise and services, widened to $8.65 billion, compared with $5.77 billion in April last year.

While briefing the media, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal also highlighted the export performance in 2024-25, showing that India's total exports that year stood at $824.9 billion, the highest-ever, and up 6% over 2023-24.

India's merchandise exports grew 9% to $38.49 billion in April 2025, while imports outpaced this considerably by growing 19.1% to $64.91 billion.

Services exports for April grew 17% in April 2025 to $35.31 billion while imports grew just 4.6% to $17.54 billion.

The sectors that saw the strongest growth in exports included tobacco (66.43%), coffee (47.85%), electronic goods (39.51%), mica, and coal and other ores & minerals (34.43%).

On the import side, chemicals (115.76%), silver (35.45%), electronic goods (31.19%), and petroleum (25.60%) grew strongly.

"The increase in imports, particularly of capital goods and energy inputs, reflects improving domestic demand and capacity expansion," S.C. Ralhan, president of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said, in reaction to the data.

State of unemployment

The chart shows the unemployment rate in men, women, and overall persons above the age of 15 in India in April 2025

Unemployment at 5.1%, women labour force rises: PLFS data

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The unemployment Rate (UR) in current weekly status (CWS) in India among persons of age 15 years and above was 5.1% in April, as per the first monthly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released here on Thursday by the Union Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation under a revamped method.

UR among males was higher at 5.2% compared with female UR of 5%. Rural unemployment rate for all persons in all ages was 4.5% while urban unemployment 6.5%. The urban unemployment rate among females between 15 and 29 years was 23.7%. The revamped model assesses employment and unemployment data from rural areas too.

The Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) in CWS among persons of age 15 years and above was 55.6% during the period. LFPR in rural areas was 58% and in urban areas it was 50.7% in April for persons of same age group.

Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in rural areas among persons of age 15 years and above was 55.4%. "WPR in urban areas among persons of the same age group was 47.4% with the overall WPR at the country level observed as 52.8% during April," the Ministry said.

Commenting on the revamped PLFS, labour economist Sridhar Kundu said it was a big effort on the part of the Centre to track employment status monthly in the case of urban areas and quarterly from rural and urban areas.

"Importantly, the size of sample households has increased, which can help provide better information about the labour market and its seasonality factor.

"But what is the broader objective? Can the information help make better policy decisions? What is the roadmap to deal with the mixed labour force, both skilled and unskilled? Second, the PLFS usually fails to provide adequate information about functioning of the labour market-oriented government schemes, such as MGNREGA and others.

"The survey does not cover information about wage rates in various sectors and sub-sectors. The survey should address these areas adequately," Dr. Kundu said.

Wholesales of 2Ws slip 16.7%, PVs see 3.9% rise in April

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Indicating distress in rural economy two-wheeler (2W) wholesales in April fell 16.7% year-on-year to 14,58,784 units, as per data released by Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) on Thursday.

The fall was led by a 22.7% drop in wholesales of motorcycles to 8,71,666 units and 5.7% fall in the scooters segment to 5,48,370 units. Mopeds also fell 7.6% to 38,748 units.

However, supported by strong urban demand, passenger vehicles (PV) wholesales in the domestic market grew 3.9% in April to 3,48,847 units.

In this segment while passenger cars and van wholesales contracted, utility vehicles segment reported growth.

The overall three-wheeler (3W) segment reported a minor contraction of 0.7% to 49,441 units. The e-rickshaw sub-segment saw a massive fall of 36.5% to 830 units from 1,308 units a year ago, goods carriers fell 7.7% to 8,135 units. Growth was reported from passenger carriers and e-carts at 2% and 16.6% respectively.

"Passenger vehicle segment posted its highest ever sales for April in 2025. The two-wheeler segment de-grew due to high base effect of April last year, while it is likely to pick up in the coming months."

He said the auto industry smoothly transitioned to the new regulatory regime of second stage of On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) 2 regulation for 2Ws and 3Ws from April in addition to rolling out E-20 compliant gasoline vehicles across India from the month.

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
TENDER CALL NOTICE NO. EM/WS- 13/2025
File No. EM/WS/TECH-08/2025/723 Date: 14.05.2025
Name of the work "Grant of license for Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Operation & Maintenance of 01 no. 100 Ton Capacity HMC's for a period of 05 years" Last date and time of submission of bid: **23.06.2025 up to 1800 Hrs.** Refer our website for details: **https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app.**
Sd/-
Executive Engineer (M)
Workshop Division-I
Paradip Port Authority
PPA/PR/11/2025-2026 14/05/2025

NOTICE INVITING e-Tender
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
Kerala IT EMPOWERING THE FUTURE
Tender No : ETPK/TC/227/2025-26
e-Tender ID : 2025_ETPK_764002_1
E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors for the work of **'Construction of an IT Office building under 'QUAD' project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) campus, Trivandrum'.**
For further details, please visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in.**
Date: 16-05-2025
Trivandrum
Chief Executive Officer
Technopark
(D3/387/2025/I&PRD)

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LTD.
Suratgarh Super Critical Thermal Power Project, Suratgarh-335805
ONLINE TENDER NOTICE : TN-226(RVU2526WSOB00342)
E-tenders are invited for Annual contract for routine, breakdown maintenance work of complete CA system of unit#7&8 SSCTPS, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites **http//eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** (for e-tender), **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.**
Raj.Samwad/C/25/2354 RVUN/PR-4197 Chief Engineer (STPS-SC)

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Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology
(वि. अ. आयोग अधिनियम 1956 की धारा 3 के अधीन मानित विश्वविद्यालय घोषित)
(Declared as Deemed to be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
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(An Autonomous Institute under Department of Space, Govt. of India)
वलियमला, तिरुवनंतपुरम 695 547, केरल / Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram 695 547, Kerala
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ADMISSION TO PG PROGRAMMES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025 - 26
केवल ऑनलाइन आवेदन ही स्वीकार किया जाएगा
Online Application only will be accepted
आईआईएसटी में स्नातकोत्तर कार्यक्रमों में प्रवेश दो तरीकों से होगा
Admission to PG programmes in IIST will be through two modes
(क) मशीन लर्निंग एवं कंप्यूटिंग में एम.टेक: आईआईएसटी वेब पोर्टल के द्वारा
(A) M.Tech in Machine Learning and Computing: through IIST webportal **https://admission.iist.ac.in/**
आवेदन भरने की अंतिम तिथि / **Last date to apply: 12th June 2025**
(ख) सभी अन्य शाखाएं : सी सी एम टी - 2025 के द्वारा
(B) All other branches: through CCMT - 2025.
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जानकारी के लिए / For Queries: admissions@iist.ac.in
संपर्क सूत्र / Contact 0471- 2568477/ 618 (on working days 0900 - 1700 hrs)
स्कैन करें/ Scan Here
डीन (शैक्षिकी) / Dean (Academics)

SANJEEVINI-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society
Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department
Office of the Mission Director, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS
4, 2nd Floor, MYSUGAR Building, J.C. Road, Near Town Hall
Bengaluru-560002 email: nrlmkarnataka@gmail com
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
Subject: Inviting Proposals under Captive Employment Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) project in the State of Karnataka
Sanjeevini-Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS), under the Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Department, Government of Karnataka is implementing Deen Dayal Upadhya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY). Sanjeevini - KSRLPS invites proposals from Agencies who are registered under Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India and are having a valid Permanent Registration Number (PRN) for the implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhaya Grameena Kaushalya Yojana 2.0 (DDU-GKY 2.0) project in the State of Karnataka. Captive Employer Agencies must be empaneled as per Notification No. 18/2020, issued by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of a Captive Employment would be applicable for Captive Employment projects.
The agencies having expertise and willingness to impart high quality training and provide placement opportunities in the sectors like IT-ITes, Fashion Technology, BFSI, Food Processing, Domestic Worker, Healthcare, Automotive, Aerospace and Aviation, Green Jobs, Management and Entrepreneurship & Professional, Telecom, People with Disability, Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Media & Entertainment, Retail and Tourism and Hospitality (but not limited to) are encouraged to submit their proposal. For detailed information you may visit the portal **https://ksrlps.karnataka.gov.in**
The Agencies should submit the proposal adhering to the procedures and guidelines of DDU-GKY 2.0 Captive Employment published by MoRD, GoI along with the non- refundable Application fee of Rs. 25,000/- (Twenty-Five Thousand Rupees only) plus applicable GST via MoRD portal online **https//kaushal.rural.gov.in.** After clearing the initial screening, the applicant agencies shall be Intimated to deposit Rs. 1,25,000/- (One Lakh Twenty-Five Thousand Rupees only) plus applicable GST for Quality Appraisal (QA). The Application fee for initial screening of proposal should be paid through NEFT/RTGS in favor of Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS) payable at Bengaluru, with the following Bank detail:
Account Name: Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (KSRLPS)
Account Number: 0431101206814
Bank Name: Canara Bank
IFSC Code: CNRB0000431
Bank Address: 19/7, Maruthi Mansion, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560052.
The last date for submitting the proposal will be on or before **06.06.2025.** For more information and program guidelines you may visit the MoRD portal **kaushal.rural.gov.in.** The State Project Approval Committee (PAC) will be the final decision-making authority.
For any queries, please contact C B Patil, SPM, PIA - C&D, 7406062947, and Narendra K C, SPM, Finance, 9980755516 ddugkysrlmkarnataka@gmail.com, nrlmkarnataka@gmail.com
Sd/-
Mission Director
DIPR/CP/697/CCL/2025-26 National Livelihood Mission, Karnataka

APPOINTMENT

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Specialist / E02 grade (Orthopedic:01, Pediatric:01, Ophthalmology:01, Radiology:01)	70000-3%-200000/-	35 Years	Nil	**Qualification**: MD/MS/Recognized post MBBS Diploma in the respective discipline as per the required specialisation.
Specialist / E03 grade (Pediatric:01, Ophthalmology:01 Radiology:01)	80000-3%-220000/-	38 Years	03 Years	

IMPORTANT DATES:

Opening of online Submission of application	14/05/2025 (10:00 AM)
Last date of Submission of online application	13/06/2025 (06:00 PM)

The interested candidates may visit the **Career Section** of website of the Company's at **www.nalcoindia.com** for further details and apply online.
Advt. No. 10250201, Date: 07/ 05/ 2025

ANKARA

Turkiye vows to continue anti-PKK operations until 'threat' is removed

REUTERS

Turkiye's military will continue operations against PKK militants until the threat is fully removed, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday. Despite the PKK's dissolution, Turkish forces remain vigilant against provocations, coordinating disarmament monitoring with local authorities, ensuring regional stability. AFP

WASHINGTON

Harvard ploughs $250 million into research after Trump cuts

AFP

Harvard University will allocate $250 million from its own funds to support critical research after the Trump administration cut $2.6 billion in federal grants, citing discrimination. Harvard is suing, calling the funding freeze unlawful and pledging to find alternative funding sources amid difficult choices ahead. AFP

MOSCOW

Putin sacks top General amid conflict, denies military purge

AP

President Putin on Thursday sacked Russia's chief of land forces, General Oleg Salyukov, amid the Ukraine offensive. Gen. Salyukov will become deputy to ex-Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who was removed last year and made Secretary of the Security Council. The move was announced in a Kremlin decree. AFP

ANTALYA

U.S. 'troubled' on Gaza, open to alternatives on aid, says Rubio

AFP

U.S. Secretary Marco Rubio expressed concern over Gaza's humanitarian crisis and openness to alternative aid plans after criticism of a U.S.-Israeli proposal. He spoke about preventing Hamas from stealing aid, discussed the situation with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and supported peace efforts. AFP

Zelenskyy in Turkiye for peace talks, Putin absent

Associated Press
ANKARA

Russian President Vladimir Putin stayed away on Thursday from proposed direct peace talks on ending the war in Ukraine, leaving Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy waiting in the Turkish capital of Ankara after he had challenged the Kremlin leader to face-to-face negotiations.

With Mr. Putin absent, the Russian delegation was in Istanbul – more than 400 kilometers west of Ankara – and it wasn't clear whether the sides would even meet for their first such talks since March 2022, following Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbour the previous month.

Meabwhile, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on Thursday that Washington was "impatient" for progress in peace efforts between Ukraine and Russia, and willing to consider "virtually any mechanism" to reach a lasting end to the war.

U.S. close to a deal on Iran's nuclear programme: Trump

Tehran would give up its stocks of highly enriched uranium as part of a deal in which Washington lifts sanctions, says an adviser to the Supreme Leader; U.S. and Iran have had four rounds of talks

Agence France-Presse
ABU DHABI

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Thursday a deal was close on Iran's nuclear programme that would avert military action, sending oil prices tumbling, as he boasted of raising "trillions of dollars" on a Gulf tour. He made the remarks in Doha before flying on to the UAE capital Abu Dhabi on the third and final leg of a Gulf tour that began in Saudi Arabia.

"We're not going to be making any nuclear dust in Iran," Mr. Trump said. "I think we're getting close to maybe doing a deal without having to do this," he said, referring to military action.

Oil prices plunged more than 3% on rising hopes for a nuclear deal that could see Iranian exports return to the market.

Iran has held four rounds of talks with the Trump administration, which has sought to avert threatened military action by Israel while keeping up its "maximum pressure" campaign.

Rising hopes: U.S. President Donald Trump gestures on stage at the Al-Udeid Air Base in Doha on Thursday. AP

"You probably read today the story about Iran. It's sort of agreed to the terms," Mr. Trump said.

The U.S. President did not specify which remarks he was referring to, but an adviser to Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Ali Shamkhani, told *NBC News* that Tehran would give up its stocks of highly enriched uranium as part of a deal in which Washington lifts sanctions.

Mr. Trump said Iran should "say a big thank you" to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who had pressed the U.S. leader to avoid military action against his country's giant neighbour.

Speaking to troops at Al-Udeid, the biggest U.S. military base in the region, Mr. Trump said his priority was "to end conflicts, not start them". But he warned that "I will never hesitate to wield American power if it's necessary to defend the United States of America or our partners". He also said Qatar would invest $10 billion in the coming years to support Al-Udeid, which hosts the regional headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command.

In Abu Dhabi, he was welcomed at the airport by UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, whose oil-rich country seeks to become a technology and artificial intelligence hub.

Mr. Trump also met with Ahmed al-Sharaa, also known as Abu Mohammad al-Jolani, in Riyadh, the first encounter between leaders of the two nations in 25 years. Jolani, a former jihadist once on the U.S. wanted list, appeared in a suit and was complimented by Mr. Trump as a "young, attractive guy".

Israeli air strikes in Gaza kill 103, say rescue workers

Agence France-Presse
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Palestinian rescuers reported over 100 people killed on Thursday in Israeli strikes on blockaded Gaza, where a U.S.-backed organisation said it intends to begin distributing aid by the end of the month.

Gaza's civil defence agency said the death toll from Israeli bombardment since dawn on Thursday had risen to 103.

Most Gazans have been displaced at least once during 19 months of war between Israel and Hamas.

Israel blocked all aid from entering Gaza on March 2, before resuming operations on March 18 after talks to prolong a six-week ceasefire collapsed.

Israel said the pressure aimed to force Hamas to free hostages in Gaza, most of them held since the Palestinian Islamist movement's unprecedented October 7, 2023 attack.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, a U.S.-supported NGO, said it would begin distributing humanitarian aid in Gaza this month after talks with Israeli officials. It said it had asked Israel to secure distribution points in northern Gaza, and that Israel had agreed.

Major attack: Palestinians run for cover as an Israeli strike hits Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip on Thursday. AFP

The Health Ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said on Thursday that 2,876 people have been killed since Israel resumed strikes on March 18.

Hamas in a statement on Thursday accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of undermining hostage release and ceasefire efforts "through deliberate military escalation, showing indifference to his captives, endangering their lives".

In the north of the occupied West Bank, meanwhile, Israel's army chief said a manhunt was under way after an attack that killed a pregnant woman.

The woman, an Israeli settler who was on her way to give birth, was pronounced dead early Thursday. Her baby was saved after delivery by caesarean section, according to a Tel Aviv hospital.

Israel's military said in a statement Thursday that "both a physical and intelligence-based search" for the attacker was under way.

Sri Lanka slams 'genocide monument' in Canada

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has conveyed its "strong objections" to the opening of a "Tamil genocide monument" in Brampton in Ontario, Canada, saying such actions "complicate and undermine" the government's efforts towards reconciliation and national unity.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath on Wednesday summoned the Canadian High Commissioner in Colombo and conveyed the government's position on the "unfounded genocide allegations" and the construction of such a memorial in Canada, which is home to a sizeable population of Sri Lankan Tamils who fled the island nation's long civil war.

The monument, unveiled on May 10, is dedicated to the memory of Tamils killed in the war. On May 18, Tamils in Sri Lanka and elsewhere will commemorate 16 years since the civil war's end, when tens of thousands of civilian lives were lost, including in areas declared "no fire zones" by the Sri Lankan authorities. Families of survivors have resolutely demanded justice for the killing of civilians – 40,000 according to UN estimates – in the final battle of Mullivaikkal, in Sri Lanka's northern Mullaitivu district, and the enforced disappearance of thousands of people, including those who surrendered to the army. In 2023, President Ranil Wickremesinghe's government "condemned and rejected outright" the remarks of then Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, marking the civil war anniversary as 'Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day'.

Vijitha Herath

International probe

Responding to Minister Herath's post on X, Gajendrakumar Ponnambalam, Jaffna MP and Leader of the Tamil National People's Front (TNPF), challenged the government, and asked: "If you truly believe that the allegations of Genocide against the Tamils by the Sri Lankan State are unfounded, then why do you demonstrate such fear at facing an international independent criminal investigation and proving the State's innocence? Why not sign up to the Rome Statute and allow the ICC to investigate?

"The fact is, Minister, the State fears the truth! Truth is the only way to reconciliation, and your government, like the previous ones, will keep denying it," Mr. Ponnambalam said.

Amid their enduring demands for accountability, the release of military-held lands of the people, and meaningful revival of a much-neglected local economy, Tamils of the north and east gave President Anura Kumara Dissanayake's National People's Power (NPP) a huge mandate in the November 2024 general elections.

While Mr. Dissanayake has initiated the release of some land and repeatedly stated that his government will never resort to racism, many in the Tamil community are waiting to see swift and concrete action on the pledges made to them during his campaign. Weighing in on the recently held local government elections, in which Tamil parties outdid the NPP in the north and east, Tamil commentators blamed the government's inadequate action for its electoral losses in the area. They also hope that Tamils are allowed to remember their loved ones without fear or military surveillance.

According to Human rights activist Ruki Fernando, "A good test will be to see whether the NPP is willing to mourn and grieve with Tamils on May 18, or will it triumphantly celebrate it as a military victory".

U.K.: migrant 'return hubs' planned in other nations

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday said the U.K. would begin talks with other countries on "return hubs" for failed asylum seekers.

"What now we want to do and are having discussions of... is return hubs, which is where someone has been through the system in the U.K., they need to be returned... and we'll do that, if we can, through return hubs," Mr. Starmer told *GB News* television from Albania, where he is on an official visit.

Under pressure

Mr. Starmer is under pressure to cut the number of irregular migrants arriving on U.K. shores, many in small boats, amid the rising popularity of the hard-right and anti-immigrant Reform UK party.

Under Mr. Starmer's Labour government, Britain last July abandoned a scheme to deport undocumented migrants to Rwanda.

Cracking down on irregular migrants had been set to top the agenda for Mr. Starmer's two-day visit to the southeast European nation.

More than 12,500 migrants have made the perilous Channel crossing so far this year, according to a tally based on figures from the U.K.'s Interior Ministry.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252623 000519	Procurement of Debarked Acacia pulpwood from open market sources of Kerala to TNPL Unit-II at Mondipatti.	30.05.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from website : **www.tnpl.com**

DIPR/2274/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited (KSITIL) invites RFP through e-Tenders under two cover bid system (Bid 1 : Prequalification and Bid 2: Price Bid) from eligible Consultants for obtaining environmental clearance from SEIAA/SEAC for the construction of 5 lakh sqft IT building proposed at Paduvilayi village, Vengad Panchayath, Kannur District.

Tender No. KSITIL/ITP-KNR/2025-26/02
Last Date of submission of e-tender : 3.00 pm on 31-05-2025

Terms of reference and tender schedule may be downloaded from the e-GP website: **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Date: 13-05-2025 **Managing Director**
Trivandrum **Kerala State IT Infrastructure Limited**
(D3/388/2025/I&PRD)

Government of Kerala
Published Tenders from 12-05-2025 to 14-05-2025
Kerala State Civil Supplies Department

Tender ID: 2025_KSCSD_764051_1 * Commissioner of Civil Supplies and consumer Affair * Purchase of electronic weighing Scale machines at all Fair * Closing Date: 22-May-2025 * PAC: Rs335000000

Visit **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** for more details.

Ro.No:12-14/May/2025/PRD/(N)9

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Tamil Nadu. Ph.: 04332 - 261600.

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Tender No.	Scope of Work	Due Date
252613 001060	Plastic Core Plug (90 GMS) for Unit - I & II.	29.05.2025
252613 001061	720 GSM Kraft Corrugated Circular Disc (5 Ply) for Unit - I & II.	29.05.2025
252613 001080	Procurement of Liquid PAC (Poly Aluminium Chloride) for Unit - I.	29.05.2025
252613 001081	Procurement of Ortho Phosphoric Acid 85% Purity for Unit - I.	29.05.2025
252623 000500	Procurement of Cationic Starch for Board Machine (CCK) of TNPL Unit - II.	02.06.2025
Email	252613001060 ; 1061 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 252613001080 ; 1081 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 252623000500 - purchaserm.u2@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/2273/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
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Tele:0471-2945646, 2945600
website: www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, e-mail: eptenders.kmscl@kerala.gov.in
CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/7787/2025 Dated : 14.05.2025

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T571/2025	Binocular Research Microscope Higher End, Trinocular Research Microscope with 4K HDMI Camera, Refrigerated Centrifuge, Temporal Bone Holder, OT Table electro Hydraulic Type B, OT Table electro Hydraulic Type C, Orthopedic OT Table -Electrohydraulic, FNAC Chair with Couch, Coblation Unit, Cytospin	23.05.2025 11.00 am.	31.05.2025 5.00 p.m.
2.	T572/2025	Automated Immune Assay Analyzer Model A, Fully Automated Immune Assay Analyzer Model D, Fully Automated Biochemistry Analyzer Model A, Digital Hemoglobinometer	24.05.2025 11.00 am.	02.06.2025 5.00 p.m.
3.	T573/2025	Airway Management Trainer (Adult), Infant CPR Mannequin, AED Trainer with Simulator, Anatomical Torso Trauma Mannequin, Self Retaining Brain Retractor, Retrieval set for DDLT Vein detecting Transilluminator device, Pediatric ICU cot, pediatric bed, Biosafety Cabinet Various Types, non-contact infrared Thermometer, Bubble CPAP, Bed side Screen, Intra Oral Digital Radiographic System Type B, Normal Delivery Kits, Delivery Kits for C-Section, Laminar flow cabinet, RO Water 500LPH for autoclaves.	27.05.2025 11.00 am. N.A.	07.06.2025 5.00 p.m. 31.05.2025 5.00 p.m.
4.	T574(R)/2025	Horizontal Electrophoresis Apparatus with all accessories, Microwave Oven, Flexible Naso-Pharygo Laryngoscope with Channel and Instruments, Carbon Monoxide Breath Analyzer, UV Transilluminator, Self Retaining Brain Retractor System, Containers for Pasteurization, Bottle Warmer for Thawing Milk, Bottle Sealer with foil for Sealing Bottles, Instruments Set for Autopsy, LCD Vision Monitor, Alpha Bed, Arthroscopy Camera and Instruments and Shaver System Model A, Impulse Oscillometry, Body Composition Analyzer, Orbital Atherectomy System, Anaerobic Chamber Glove Box, Low Temperature Hydrogen Peroxide Gas Plasma Sterilizer, Laparoscopic Video Choledochoscope, Micro Needling and Radio Frequency, Hand Held Non Mydriatic Camera, Shower Trolley, ETO Sterilizer Model C, Bacteriological Incubator, Ice Lined Refrigerator, Fume Hood, Haemotherm for Liver Transplant Surgery, Diathermy with Bipolar Cutting & Coagulation System, Wheel Chair, Transvaginal Uterine Artery Clamp, Retractor Set, Vortex Mixture, Sterilizer Various Types	N.A.	07.06.2025 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

MINOR SETBACK

Powell, Moeen miss KKR's training session ahead of must-win clash

K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

The KKR contingent, except Rovman Powell and Moeen Ali, took part in training on Thursday in Bengaluru ahead of Saturday's game against RCB. The franchise confirmed that Powell was undergoing a medical procedure while Moeen and his family were down with a viral infection. KKR will be eliminated from IPL-18 if it loses to RCB.

IN & OUT

PBKS picks Jamieson; GT brings in Kusal Mendis to replace Buttler

FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

Punjab Kings drafted in New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson, *in pic*, as a replacement for the injured Lockie Ferguson. Meanwhile, Gujarat Titans signed Sri Lankan Kusal Mendis, who will replace Jos Buttler once he leaves for England duties and LSG brought in paceman William O'Rourke in place of the injured Mayank Yadav.

BIG, BIGGER

ICC more than doubles prize money for WTC winner

GETTY IMAGES

The winner of the 2025 World Test Championship will be richer by $3.6 million, more than double of what was awarded in the previous edition. Australia had received $1.6 million for winning the 2023 edition. The final will be played between Australia and South Africa at Lord's from June 11. The losing finalist will earn $2.1 million.

LEGEND HONOURED

Gavaskar inaugurates boardroom named after him at the BCCI HQ

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In a special ceremony held at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai, Sunil Gavaskar inaugurated '10000 Gavaskar', a recently created boardroom named in his honour. The ceremony was attended by BCCI president Roger Binny, vice-president Rajeev Shukla, and Board secretary Devajit Saikia.

Big boost for Royal Challengers as Patidar resumes training

The skipper is back after a hand injury; Kohli, Salt take part in practice; uncertainty over Hazlewood's availability for rest of the tournament; team's foreign players including David, Shepherd and Livingstone return

IPL-18

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

In a big boost, Royal Challengers Bengaluru had its captain Rajat Patidar back in training on Thursday ahead of the home Indian Premier League game against Kolkata Knight Riders, at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here. RCB has one foot in the playoffs and can confirm that berth with a win over KKR on Saturday.

Slow and steady

Patidar, who had injured his hand in the match against Chennai Super Kings on May 3, started gingerly, going through a couple of fitness routines before facing some harmless throwdowns, all the while sporting a few strappings on his right ring finger.

The 31-year-old then moved to the main nets fully padded up, and attempted many a big hit. He managed to send a handful of balls soaring into the stands, but did not middle everything and mishit many.

But the RCB thinktank led by Mo Bobat, Dinesh Karthik and Andy Flower, which was in full attendance for the session, wouldn't mind, for the key was to see the skipper back in action ahead of IPL's restart.

On track: Skipper Patidar's presence at training will please the RCB thinktank. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Earlier, Phil Salt and Virat Kohli started the evening in earnest fashion, clubbing multiple balls into the stands. Mayank Agarwal, who is expected to slot in for the injured Devdutt Padikkal, also saw batting time, along with bespoke fielding drills.

Kohli, who announced his retirement from red-ball cricket on Monday, also exchanged a few pleasantries with his former Test teammate and current KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane.

On Thursday morning, the club confirmed that nearly all members of its foreign contingent, including Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Jacob Bethell, Liam Livingstone and Lungi Ngidi, were back in the city.

Area of concern

But the issue for RCB is that, owing to international commitments, not all of these top players will be up for selection if the outfit goes all the way up to the IPL final on June 3.

There is still no clarity on star pacer Josh Hazlewood's availability for the rest of the tournament. Hazlewood missed the CSK tie with a shoulder niggle but has since been named in Australia's squad for the World Test Championship final against South Africa from June 11.

Capitals await clarity on Aussie spearhead Starc

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Even as a majority of Delhi Capitals' Indian contingent trained at the Arun Jaitley Stadium for the first time since the Indian Premier League (IPL) was suspended on May 8 owing to cross-border tensions with Pakistan, uncertainty persists on the availability of a few key overseas players. Barring Sri Lankan pace bowler Dushmantha Chameera, none of the overseas lot was in attendance on a sultry Thursday evening in the national capital.

With fifth-placed DC battling for a playoff berth, Australian spearhead Mitchell Starc's participation is particularly essential. The franchise is expecting to get clarity on the left-armer, who is part of Australia's squad for the World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lord's in London from June 11-15, only on Friday. His Australian teammates Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood and Travis Head are heading back to their respective IPL franchises for the remainder of the league stage.

The South African duo of Tristan Stubbs and Faf du Plessis, too, is yet to join the DC camp. In Stubbs' case, he is anyway unlikely to stay for the entirety of the tournament should Capitals qualify for the playoffs. While Qualifier 1 is slated for May 29 and the final is on June 3, the Proteas Test squad has to leave for the United Kingdom on May 30 ahead of a warm-up game versus Zimbabwe from June 3.

Honing his skills: Rahul, who was the first to have a bat, worked on his range-hitting during the nets. X@DELHICAPITALS

On Wednesday, DC signed Bangladesh left-arm pacer Mustafizur Rahman as a replacement for Aussie opener Jake Fraser-McGurk, who did not wish to return for the business end of the campaign. But there is uncertainty over Mustafizur as well. The 29-year-old hasn't yet got a no-objection certificate from the Bangladesh Cricket Board, and is part of his country's squad for a T20I series against Pakistan starting on May 25.

At the training session on Thursday, left-arm wrist-spinner Kuldeep Yadav was a prominent absentee. K.L. Rahul, who was the first to have a bat, practised his range-hitting during the session.

Srihari.

Srihari is India's 86th GM

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu's L.R. Srihari on Thursday became India's latest and 86th Grandmaster. The Chennai-based player, who had crossed the 2500 Elo rating (live) last May at the Dubai Open, got his first GM norm at the Sixdays Budapest GM Round-Robin in August 2023 and the second at the 2023 Qatar Masters.

For one year and nearly nine tournaments, Srihari struggled to get the final norm before he gained it in the Asian individual championships in Al-Ain (Abu Dhabi). "It was a huge relief. In the eight-nine tournaments last year, I came close to getting my final GM norm only to lose it. For some reason or the other, there was some hurdle in my way," the 19-year-old B. Com student told *The Hindu* from Al-Ain.

Shafali and fit-again Yastika earn recalls

Back in the mix: Shafali and Yastika. FILE PHOTOS : VIJAY SONEJI

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Attacking opener Shafali Verma on Thursday returned to India colours after a gap of seven months as she was included in the national T20I squad for the five-match away series against England, starting June 28 in Trent Bridge.

Shafali was out of the Indian team from October 2024 on account of modest form, but she could not find a place in the ODI squad for the three-match series against England, which was also announced.

Another player to make a comeback was wicket-keeper Yastika Bhatia, who was sidelined since last November due to a wrist injury. Yastika is a part of the ODI squad as well.

The squads: T20I: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Harleen Deol, Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare.
ODI: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-Capt.), Pratika Rawal, Harleen Deol, Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (WK), Yastika Bhatia (WK), Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Sree Charani, Shuchi Upadhyay, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Sayali Satghare.
The schedule: First T20I: June 28; Trent Bridge, Nottingham. **Second T20I:** July 1; Seat Unique Stadium, Bristol. **Third T20I:** July 4; Kennington Oval, London. **Fourth T20I:** July 9; Old Trafford, Manchester. **Fifth T20I:** July 12; Edgbaston, Birmingham. **First ODI:** July 16; The Rose Bowl, Southampton. **Second ODI:** July 19; Lord's, London. **Third ODI:** July 22; Riverside Ground, Chester-le-Street.

Pragg beats So; maiden win for Gukesh

Press Trust of India
BUCHAREST

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa shot into sole lead, defeating American Wesley So in the eighth round of the Superbet Classic, a part of the Grand Chess tour.

The victory with black, took Praggnanandhaa to five points on a day when World champion D. Gukesh also registered his first victory at the expense of another American Levon Aronian. After two losses, Gukesh came back to form with a win over Aronian and moved to 3.5 points.

Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France played a draw with Fabiano Caruana of USA, while local GM Deac Bogdan-Daniel also secured a draw against Jan-Krzysztof Duda of Poland and Uzbekistan's Nodirbek Abdusattarov held Frenchman Alireza Firouzja.

The results: Eighth round: So (3.5) lost to Pragganandhaa (5), Aronian (3) lost to Gukesh (3.5), Deac Bogdan Daniel (4) drew with Duda (3), Caruana (4.5) drew with Vachier-Lagrave (4.5), Firouzja (4.5) drew with Abdusattarov (4).

Sinner demolishes Ruud; Paolini delights home crowd by reaching final

ITALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
ROME

Jannik Sinner marched into the semifinals of the Italian Open on Thursday after destroying Casper Ruud in straight sets 6-0, 6-1 and sending a warning that the World No. 1 is officially back.

Ruud was supposed to be Sinner's toughest test in Rome since he came back from his three-month doping ban, as the Norwegian came into the match in hot form on clay after winning in Madrid earlier this month.

But the 23-year-old demolished sixth seed Ruud in just over an hour with an ominous display of tennis, his domination such that the fans that the packed centre court, seemingly out of sympathy, began to cheer the rare points that Ruud won.

Tommy Paul, a 7-6(4), 6-3 winner over Hubert Hurkacz in the day's first match, will take on Sinner in the last-four clash.

Nearly there: Sixth seed Paolini fought her way back from a slow start to reach the summit clash. REUTERS

Sinner's compatriot Jasmine Paolini reached the women's final, ending Peyton Stearns' impressive run in the tournament 7-5, 6-1.

Home hope and sixth seed Paolini became the third Italian woman to reach the Foro Italico final, and the first since her doubles partner Sara Errani was thumped by Serena Williams in 2014.

"It's a dream of mine to get to the final here. It was a difficult start, thank goodness you were all here to give me a boost," Paolini said on court.

Paolini looked way off the pace when she lost the first three games of the match in surprisingly timid fashion, serving weakly and mishitting a host of simple shots.

But she slowly began to force herself back into the contest, putting pressure on Stearns to find shots with her serving and finding both more power and accuracy on her forehand.

The results: Men: Quarterfinals: Sinner bt Ruud 6-0, 6-1; Paul bt Hurkacz 7-6(4), 6-3; Musetti bt Zverev 7-6(1), 6-4. **Women**: **Semifinals**: Paolini bt Stearns 7-5, 6-1. **Quarterfinals**: Zheng bt Sabalenka 6-4, 6-3.

Nihal finishes runner-up; qualifies for World Cup

Sports Bureau

Nihal Sarin finished runner-up in the Asian individual chess championship at Al Ain (UAE) on Thursday. The No.1 seed defeated Bardiya Daneshvar in the top board clash between the joint overnight leaders, but the Iranian became the champion on account of a superior tie-breaker score after they finished with seven points each from nine rounds.

Nihal, however, booked his berth for the World Cup in India later this year. Pa. Iniyan, R. Raja Rithvik, S.L. Narayanan, M. Pranesh and G.B. Harshvardhan also qualified.

The standings: Open: 1-2. Bardiya Daneshvar (Ira) and Nihal Sarin (Ind) 7 points; 3-8. Shamsiddin Vokhidov (Uzb), Ivan Zemlyanskii (Rus), Pa. Iniyan (Ind), R. Raja Rithvik (Ind), S.L. Narayanan (Ind) and M. Pranesh (Ind) 6.5; 9-10. G.B. Harshvardhan (Ind) and Sergei Lobanov (Rus) 6. **Women:** 1-4. Song Yuxin (Chn), Bat-Erdene Mungunzhul (Mgl), Xeniya Balabayeva (Kaz), Vantika Agrawal (Ind) 7 points; 5-9. Srija Seshadri (Ind), Anastasia Bodaruk (Rus), Valentina Gunina (Rus), Afruza Khamdamova (Uzb), Alua Nurman (Kaz) 6.5; 10. Tokhirjonova (Uzb) 6.

INBRIEF

Bologna ends 51-year wait with Italian Cup win

Bologna won the Italian Cup on Wednesday after beating AC Milan 1-0 in Rome and ending a 51-year wait for a major trophy. Dan Ndoye scored the goal in the 53rd minute which gave Bologna a historic victory, its first honour since last winning the cup in 1974. Bologna hadn't even been in a major tournament final since last winning the Italian Cup.

Kulusevski out for a few months after knee surgery

Tottenham Hotspur's attacking midfielder Dejan Kulusevski will be out for a few months after having knee surgery, said manager Ange Postecoglou. The Sweden international was injured in the 2-0 Premier League defeat at home to Crystal Palace during the weekend. "Obviously disappointing news. Initially we thought it wasn't too serious... it kind of blew up the day after and we knew there was an issue," Postecoglou told reporters on Thursday.

LIVE TELECAST

Tennis: Italian Open, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Saturday)

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 12 a.m. & 12.45 a.m. (Saturday)

Nagal goes down to seventh seed Gaston

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Seventh seed Hugo Gaston defeated Sumit Nagal 6-3, 6-4 in the first round of the €227,270 Challenger tennis tournament in Bordeaux (France).

Other results: €227,270 Challenger, Bordeaux: Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals: Yuki Bhambri & Robert Galloway (USA) bt Jakub Paul (Sui) & David Pel (Ned) 6-0, 7-6(1).

€145,250 Challenger, Oeiras (Portugal): Doubles: Quarterfinals: Sergio Gomes (Esp) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Erik Grevelius & Adam Heinonen (Swe) 2-6, 6-3, [10-5]; **Pre-quarterfinals:** Sergio & Vijay bt Anirudh Chandrasekar & David Stevenson (GBR) 6-4, 7-6(5).

$100,000 Challenger, Tunis: Doubles: Quarterfinals: Siddhant Banthia & Alexander Donski (Bul) w/o Filip Jianu (Rou) & Oriol Batalla (Esp); Alexander Merino (Per) & Christoph Negritu (Ger) bt Robin Bertrand (Fra) & Adil Kalyanpur 6-0, 7-6(6).

$30,000 ITF men, Reggio Emilia (Italy): Pre-quarterfinals: Justin Schlageter (Ger) bt Manas Dhamne 6-4, 4-6, 7-5. **Doubles: Pre-quarterfinals:** Federico Iannaccone (Ita) & Georgii Kravchenko (Ukr) bt Manas Dhamne & Gabriel Gomez (Fra) 6-2, 7-5.

$15,000 ITF men, Prijedor (Bosnia & Herzegovina): Doubles: Quarterfinals: Aryan Lakshmanan & Gabriele Noce (Ita) bt Federico Guarducci & Matteo Mesaglio (Ita) 6-2, 6-3.

$60,000 ITF women, Trnava (Slovakia): Doubles: Semifinals: Arianne Hartono (Ned) & Prarthana Thombare bt Elena Pridankina & Valeriya Strakhova (Ukr) 6-3, 3-6, [11-9].

I don't think it will be like before anymore: Neeraj

Javelin World champion clears the air on the relationship with his Pakistani rival Arshad Nadeem; he returns to action on Friday

ATHLETICS

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Things may have cooled down a bit at home but the ongoing tensions between India and Pakistan made their presence felt in Doha on the eve of the Diamond League on Thursday with Neeraj Chopra making it clear that it could not be business as usual going forward.

Neeraj, who will be returning to action on Friday after the season-opener at his training base in Potchefstroom last month, was categorical when asked about his Pakistani rival Arshad Nadeem.

"First of all, I really want to make it clear that I don't have a very strong relationship or friendship (with Arshad).

"I do have some good friends in the athletics community from all round the world, not just in javelin but also other events... But because of this, whatever is happening, I don't think it will be something like before anymore," he declared.

"It (javelin throw) is a very small community and everyone wants to do their best for their country and if somebody talks to me respectfully, I always like to reciprocate but it's the same with every thrower and I will try to keep it like that," he added.

Frankly speaking: Neeraj, talking ahead of the Doha Diamond League, was categorical with his views on the friendship with Nadeem. X@DIAMOND_LEAGUE

Criticism

Neeraj, who was recently made an honorary Lt. Colonel in the Territorial Army, had been criticised for inviting Nadeem for the inaugural NC Classic meet which had to be eventually postponed.

Neeraj had clarified back then that the general invites had gone out much before the hostilities began and there had been no confirmation.

He admitted it was disappointing that the NC Classic could not be held despite all the efforts but hoped there would be something organised in India at a later date, reiterating that it was a one-off thing.

Asked about training with Jan Zelezny, Neeraj said the partnership had been positive so far.

"It was challenging in the beginning but is going well now. He was a great athlete in his time and now he is helping me with not only the throwing but also going into competition with a strong mindset, so it's going very well."

Asian Games silver medallist Kishore Jena will also be in action at the event.

Indian girls lose to Kazakhstan

Sports Bureau

Host Kazakhstan beat India 2-0 in the quarterfinals of the Asia-Oceania Junior Billie Jean King Cup under-16 girls tennis tournament in Shymkent on Thursday.

Parthsarthi Mundhe went down fighting in two hours and 41 minutes to Yerkezhan Zhanatayeva in the opening singles before Eva Korysheva routed Aahan to seal the tie.

India will play for the 5th to 8th places, starting with the match against Korea.

The results (quarterfinals): Kazakhstan bt India 2-0
(Yerkezhan Zhanatayeva bt Parthsarthi Mundhe 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-3; Eva Korysheva bt Aahan 6-1, 6-1).

Bengaluru summer meeting races from tomorrow

Riaz Babu
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru summer meeting will commence on May 17 (Saturday) and conclude on August 1 (Friday). Racing will be conducted over 24 days during the meeting and will mainly be held on Saturdays and Sundays except during the last week.

Briefing the media, R. Manjunath Ramesh, chairman & senior steward of the Bangalore Turf Club, said a totally duly prize money (including trophies) of ₹15,71,95,000 is estimated to be paid during the meeting 2025 and would be approximately ₹18 crore including divisions.

He added that for the first time, races over a distance of 1,300 and 1,500 metres have been introduced.

The Bangalore Summer Derby, sponsored by Mr. Suresh Paladugu of HPSL, will have a guaranteed prize money of ₹2 crore inclusive of the club's contribution and an equal contribution of ₹1 crore by the sponsor.

The board of appeal for the summer meeting: Shivkumar Kheny (chairman), S. Chockalingam, B. Dayananda IPS, S.K. Raghunandan, Ritesh Kumar Singh IAS, and Zeyn Mirza.

Racing dates: May: 17, 18, 24, 25, 31; **June:** 1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29; **July:** 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27, 31; **August:** 1.

Indian campaign ends in Thailand Open

BADMINTON

Press Trust of India
BANGKOK

India's dismal run in elite international badminton tournaments continued, as its shuttlers, including World No. 10 women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand exited early, ending the country's campaign at the Thailand Open Super 500 here on Thursday.

Treesa and Gayatri, returned to action following an injury layoff but fell 20-22, 14-21 to Japan's Rui Hirokami and Sayaka Hobara in the second round.

Straight games loss

In singles, Unnati Hooda, Malvika Bansod, and Aakarshi Kashyap bowed out after straight-game defeats against higher-ranked opponents in the women's singles second round, while Tharun Mannepalli, the lone Indian in men's singles, also exited from the $475,000 event.

India is yet to make a final appearance in any BWF World Tour event this year, with top singles players including Lakshya Sen, P.V. Sindhu, and H.S. Prannoy battling poor form, injuries, and illness.

The results (second round):
Men: Anders Antonsen (Den) bt Tharun Mannepalli 21-14, 21-16.
Women: Pornpawee Chochuwong (Tha) bt Unnati Hooda 21-14, 21-11; Ratchanok Intanon (Tha) bt Malvika Bansod 21-12, 21-16; Supanida Katethong (Tha) bt Aakarshi Kashyap 21-9, 21-14.
Doubles: Rui Hirokami & Sayaka Hobara (Jpn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 22-20, 21-14.

Khelo India Beach Games set to feature about 1000 athletes

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Khelo India Beach Games will be held in Diu, Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman from May 19 to 24.

Organised under the Sports Competition and Talent Development section of the Khelo India Scheme, the Beach Games will feature football, volleyball, sepak takraw, kabaddi, Pencak Silat and open water swimming. Mallakhamb and Tug of War will be demonstration sports.

Competition is expected to feature about 1000 athletes from across the country.

The government is keen to have fixed venues and a fixed calendar for different Khelo India Games to give talented youth maximum opportunity to gain attention, recognition and get on a pathway to progress.

Real delays Barca's celebrations

Timely strike: Jacobo takes advantage of lax defending to bundle in Real's winner. REUTERS

LALIGA

Agence France-Press
MADRID

Real Madrid snatched a last-gasp 2-1 win over Real Mallorca on Wednesday to delay Barcelona's title celebrations.

Trailing for much of the game after Martin Valjent's 11th-minute opener, two second-half goals for Madrid ensured its arch-rival did not claim its 28th La Liga title just yet.

Real needed to win to deny Barca and Kylian Mbappe's equaliser and Jacobo Ramon's 95th-minute strike allowed it to do just that.

The results: Alaves 1 (Jordan 79-pen) bt Valencia 0; Villarreal 3 (Perez 23, 31, Pepe 45) bt Leganes 0; Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 68, Ramon 90+5) bt Mallorca 1 (Valjent 11).